

THE AMERICAN FARMER



"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS."
Virg.

Vol. XI.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1856.

No. 7.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Our readers are aware, that the Maryland State Agricultural Society has for several years past, had a contemplation, the purchase of an Experimental Farm and the establishment of an Agricultural College, as the only sure means of introducing a scientific system of Agriculture into the State—circumstances beyond the control of the Society, we heretofore prevented much headway being made, but at the late annual meeting, such preliminary steps were taken, as gives us strong hopes at a measure fraught with so many benefits to the commonwealth and blessings to the future farmers of our State and country, is now likely to be consummated. The appointment of Mr. Bowie as treasurer of the Society, who has consented to canvass the State in behalf of this object, and the very flattering success which has already attended his labors, induces the hope, that the day is not far distant, when our expectations will be realized.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held May last, a Committee consisting of James T. Earle, Esq., President, and Messrs. Ch. B. Calvert, Dr. John O. Wharton, J. C. Walsh, W. W. Bowie, Col. Geo. W. Hughes and N. B. Washington, was appointed to prepare a Memorial to the Legislature, for the endowment of the College, and we learn that this committee intend to present the same at the session which commences on Wednesday next, and we, in advance, ask of the members elect, a candid and liberal consideration of the memorial of the Society. We embrace the occasion as peculiarly applicable, to publish in the Register of Debates of the convention which formed the present Constitution of Maryland, the following extracts from a speech delivered during the session, by A. Bowie Davis, Esq., of Montgomery County, (which we intended about time of delivery to have presented to our readers) and the action of the convention on the motion made by him, by which it will be seen that the

organic law of the State renders it imperative upon the legislature to adopt the course now prayed for by our State Society, which may emphatically be entitled to be considered as the representative of the farming and planting interests. The legislature will here find not only constitutional obligations to lend a helping hand to our Society, but it is bound by every consideration of justice to the acknowledged greatest interest of the State, to place it upon at least as good a footing as other classes and professions.

The following amendment was offered by A. Bowie Davis, of Montgomery Co. (see page 222, Vol. 1,) viz:—

"The Legislature shall encourage by all suitable means, associations for the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, for the promotion of literature, the arts and sciences, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and for the general melioration of the wants and conditions of the people."

Mr. Davis, after making some general remarks relative to the city of Baltimore, said:—

"I have proposed that we shall insert an article in the *bill of rights*, to encourage associations, whose object is to advance and promote the various interests in all classes, and of all parts of the State. I do not propose even to exclude associations which heretofore have been so liberally patronized. I do not wish, however, to be understood as advocating a profuse expenditure of public money, for any of those objects—far from it. At a proper time I shall vote for a limit upon the powers of the Legislature over State credit. But I do advocate by the Legislature a recognition of any and every interest which contributes to make up the whole body politic, and to sustain and support the Government. Nay, further: I advocate such an employment of the means of the State, as in the judgment of the Legislature may be necessary to aid useful associations, whose object and tendency is to make us more intelligent, more virtuous, more useful, and happier and better citizens. That some of the objects enumerated in the article proposed have been well patronized by the State, is abundantly proved by an examination of the past acts of Assembly. Literature, for

example, including law and medicine, has received a very large share of patronage from the State, while associations for the general diffusion of knowledge and virtue among the people have been neglected. It may perhaps be new to some to learn, that the State has endowed a professorship of law to the tune of \$14,200.*

But to return from this digression.

For professorship of law,	\$14,200
Of medicine, for chemical apparatus,	6,500
For arts and sciences,	2,000
For infirmary,	3,800

Besides this the State has granted to the same University, located in the city of Baltimore, a lottery for \$100,000, and a loan of State bonds to the amount of \$30,000; and at a period of her heaviest financial depression, relinquished an annual interest of about \$1,500 upon this loan, which is equivalent to an annual donation of that amount.

Why the law school has never gone into operation, I leave the gentlemen of the bar from the city to answer—it is certainly no fault of the legislature.

Besides this, State bonds to the amount of \$97,947.30, have been issued for the Penitentiary, also located in Baltimore, and I apprehend chiefly for the accommodation of her citizens. In addition to this, \$3,000 have been appropriated by the State to build the greatest ornament to your city—the lofty column raised to perpetuate the memory of the father of his country.

Against all this I utter not one word of complaint.

Again, sir—the inspection laws. For whose benefit are they? For the farmers, or for the merchant—and who pays the cost? If I buy and sell in the country, as farmers and millers sometimes do, I have to depend upon my own judgment; but if I take a load of flour to Baltimore, before I can sell it, I must pay for its inspection; and when I buy plaster or guano in return, I find inspection charged upon my bill. So all this handsome revenue from the city of Baltimore, which entitles her to so much credit for patriotism and distinction, upon the books of the Treasury, as had been claimed, will be found to have been wrung from the hard earnings of the farmer, to save your citizens the trouble of exercising a little judgment for themselves.

From an examination of the Treasurer's report, it appears that the State received—

For wood hucksters, paid by the seller,	873 00
Hay Scales, paid by the seller,	854 95
Live stock Scales, paid by the seller,	15,018 58
And from the tobacco inspection, clear nett revenue,	30,217 00

This latter fund is exclusively devoted to building up large warehouses, to adorn and add to the wealth of your city. The inspection of one dollar per hogshead has been removed to gull the planters, but the outlay of \$1.25 from which this fund is derived, is retained, and constitutes a charge against the price of the article, when the planter goes to sell.

Against the injustice and practical working of these inspection laws, I do object. Again, sir—we come to commerce: Commerce is defined by lexicographers, to be the exchange of commodities, or the connection of one section of country with another. And how shall I begin to count the State's

patronage and encouragement to this branch of my article? Neither by hundreds or by thousands, or by tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands, but by millions.

For the encouragement of commerce, the little State of Maryland has gone into debt \$15,424, 381 46.

For the encouragement of agriculture, \$1,000, 00.

Except an appropriation of \$500, (\$6,000.00 less what was given to the Medical University, as has been shown,) to purchase an apparatus for the State Chemist, and his salary since his appointment, only three years ago up to last year, of but \$1,500.

What a miserable, pitiful, niggardly exhibit is here presented against agriculture—the great leading interest of the State—the interest which has built up your city, freighted your ships, and sustains your lines of internal commerce. And how soon is this pitiful encouragement to agriculture swallowed up for the benefit of commerce? Let the tax bills from Worcester to Allegany answer. They furnish an artery of living witnesses—a mountain of certificates, which all the eloquence and ingenuity of her bar, distinguished as it is, cannot weaken or obliterate.

Again, Manufactures, I also include in my objects of encouragement—not because it has been neglected, but because in framing a new government, for the State, I do wish to preserve equal and impartial justice to each and every interest.—The liberal charters, and in some instances, direct subscriptions to stock, (\$10,000 to the Union Manufacturing Company,) will show the paternal regard the State has had for this important branch of industry. Mechanics is so intimately connected with manufactures, that it is impossible to separate them. To this branch also, or rather to the mechanics of Baltimore, a generous and paternal care has been shown, by an annual donation to the Mechanic's Institute of Baltimore, of \$500.

A similar donation was applied for at the same session of the Legislature, for the great State Agricultural Society, and was refused.

It now remains for me to show authority, or precedent for the proposition I have had the honor to submit, and the first, because the most recent, to which I will call attention, is found in the California Constitution. The glittering gold of her hills and valleys has not even dazzled the eyes of her law makers to what is just and right, and proper to the varied interests which may spring up in this land of promise. She has provided in her fundamental law, that "The Legislature shall encourage, by all suitable means, the promotion of intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement."

Almost identically the language, though I was not aware of it when I drew my article, which I have employed—and this language appears to have been copied verbatim from the Michigan Constitution—which I have reason to believe was drawn by that eminent statesman, Gen. Cass, now so conspicuously before the country; for within a few days past, I have had the honor to receive from him an able and eloquent address, delivered by him in October last, before the Agricultural Society of Calamazoo county, Michigan, in which I find the following cutting and well merited rebuke to the members of the National Legislature. He says in his conclusion: "My fellow citizens, I come to

you from a far different scene from this—from a scene where there was neither *eye* nor *heart* for the peaceful and prosperous labors of agriculture."

Neither an eye nor heart for the peaceful pursuits of agriculture! What a censure upon a Legislature, three-fourths of which were composed of the immediate representatives of the agricultural interest. I trust, Mr. President, that this Convention will merit no such rebuke, but that we will show, by our action, that we have both an eye and a heart for the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, as well as all other interests in the State.

Mr. President, I could multiply authority. I could read from the Constitution of the granite State of New Hampshire—from Old Massachusetts—from Maine—from Indiana. I could give the example of New York and New Jersey—I could weary this body, and exhaust myself with the reading of them, were it necessary. But I forbear. I am sure more cannot be necessary.

I have thus, Mr. President, as briefly as I could, in my plain way, shown what interests have been fostered and encouraged by the Legislature, and what neglected, and authorities for my proposition, from the constitutions of many of our sister States. I have shown, I hope, conclusively so, that while literature, including law and medicine, have been patronized and encouraged, and commerce lavishly so—agriculture and associations for the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, have been neglected. Shakespeare says, "Ignorance is the curse of God—Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to Heaven."

And its kindred *virtue*, as compared with religion, is beautifully put by Dr. Watts, who says:—"Virtue teaches us our duty towards man—Religion our duty towards God."

Shall these innocent and useful associations continue longer to be neglected. Will Maryland suffer the reproach of continuing to be behind the times, in moral and social culture? Will she in this enlightened age, at this period of moral, intellectual and physical improvement, falter in her duty? For one, I trust not—I hope not. Let us for a moment forget party strife—political aggrandizement, and apply ourselves to the peaceful pursuits of life. Let the people of all classes, and all interests, throughout the length and breadth of Maryland, see that their wants, their wishes, and their interests, are thought of—are cared for—are provided for.

We shall then have proved ourselves, to be in fact, as well as profession, their true representatives. We then shall entitle ourselves to the commendation of "well done good and faithful servants." Mr. President, my task is done—my duty performed—and in the language of the poet I will say in conclusion,

"To you the polished judges of our cause,
Whose smiles are honor, and whose nods appraise,
Humbly we bend, encourage arts like these,
For though the actor fails, he strives to please."

Note.—The Legislature of NORTH CAROLINA, at its recent session, passed a bill authorising an agricultural, mineralogical, and botanical survey of the State. The Governor is to make the appointment, and the surveyor is required personally, or by his assistants, "to visit every county in

the State, and examine every thing of interest or value in either of the above departments, to ascertain the nature and character of its products, and the nature and character of its soil, as well as to give an account of its minerals."

Mr. Jenifer thought the views presented by Mr. Davis were well worthy of consideration here and throughout the State, but thought it questionable whether the bill of rights was the proper place for the provision.

Mr. Spencer said he was favorable to the general object, and had only one objection to the amendment, and that was to the expression "by all suitable means," as being capable of a too latitudinous construction.

Mr. Tuck suggested a modification of the article proposed. He was decidedly in favor of the object contemplated. It was the duty of the State to give attention to these objects. They lie at the foundation of all good government, and although the Legislature would have the power, without this clause, he thought it proper that the declaration of rights should enjoin it as a duty. He would leave out the words *associations* and *suitable means*. It might be said hereafter that the Legislature could promote these objects in no other way than by authorizing corporations, associations, &c. He was for the largest exercise of the power—the mode and the means, he would leave to the Legislature. If the gentleman from Montgomery would modify his amendment as suggested, Mr. Tuck thought the Convention could do no otherwise than adopt it.

Mr. Davis accepted the proposition of Mr. Tuck, (as a modification of his own amendment,) and it was read as follows:

Article 42.—The Legislature ought to encourage the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the promotion of literature, the arts, sciences, agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, and the general melioration of the wants and condition of the people."

After a brief conversation between Messrs. Jenifer and Davis,

The question was taken, and the modified amendment was adopted.

QUANTITY OF LIME PER ACRE

"The practice hitherto has been to apply a large dose of lime at once, and not to repeat it during the lease. The motive for this practice I would look for more to the circumstances in which the farmer is placed in regard to the tenure of his farm, than to any reasonable expectation entertained by him of the action of the lime upon the soil in large quantity. It is felt with the application of lime as with the draining of the farm—the sooner it is done, and the seldom done, the greater profit to him who does it. The opinion is gaining ground, however, that it is better for the tenant's interest to lime in less quantity at a time, and more frequently. It would appear, taking the average of the quantities of lime applied in different districts of the country, that about 8 or 10 bushels per acre per annum are applied to supply the supposed requirements of the land. It might therefore be better for the crops, and more prudent for the purse of the tenant, to apply 8 or 10 bushels per acre on the fallow every year during the lease, than 160 or 200 bushels per acre at one time at its commencement."—*Stephen's Farmer's Guide.*

THE OFFICE OF STATE CHEMIST.

As the Legislature of Maryland will shortly be in session, we desire to call attention to a subject which we deem of much interest to the agriculturists of Maryland. The law for the establishment of the office of State Chemist, has now been in operation about eight years, a period of time fully sufficient to test its value, if the intention of its projectors had been fully and fairly carried out. The cost to the State has been, we suppose, not less than \$25,000 to \$30,000, including the salaries of the State Chemist, and his assistant, the Laboratory, printing of reports, &c., (the exact items for which we would be pleased to see called for by some member of the Legislature.) A very general feeling has been evinced for years past, that the law has not answered the expectations originally contemplated, either on account of its own defects, or in consequence of the manner of its execution; and so generally was this feeling displayed prior to the session of the last Legislature, two years ago, that it was then confidently anticipated that a radical change would be made, or that the law would be abolished; but the adage was verified, as has too often been the case in matters pertaining to the agricultural interests, that "what's every body's business, is nobody's," and no effort was made to correct the evil which was so generally acknowledged to exist, notwithstanding two-thirds of the legislative body was composed of farmers and planters—'tis true, one portion of the present system was repealed, but that was accomplished by the act itself limiting its duration to the then session, and by a failure or refusal to re-enact it.

For our own part, we believe that if the law had been carried out as it was intended it should be, much good would have ensued to the great interest it was desired to subserve; but we think that no candid man, who has paid any attention to the subject for the last six or seven years, (*after the first year of its enactment*), can come to any other conclusion, than that the office, and the perquisites attached to it, can now be looked upon as little else than a sinecure, for which the tax payers of Maryland are obliged to pay. And as the agricultural interest has a right to demand that the Legislature shall place it upon as favorable a footing as other classes which are enjoying the liberality of the State, it behoves that body, now about to convene, to examine into the subject, in order that the supposed aid thus extended to that interest, under this law, may not, if found to have failed in accomplishing the objects contemplated by its patriotic projectors, be placed as a bar against any other objects which may be brought before it, as we hope there will be, to foster this, the great interest of our State.

In order to a full understanding of the subject, it is but proper that we should give, in connexion

with the exposition we are about to make, a copy of the law, passed at December session, 1847, ch. 249, which is as follows:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall hereafter annually appoint and commission, a person of ability, integrity, and suitable practical and scientific attainments, as *Agricultural Chemist*, for the State; and if the Senate shall have adjourned before the Governor shall make the appointment for the present year, or if a vacancy shall hereafter occur during the recess of the Senate, then the Governor alone shall make such appointment, which shall be good and valid until the tenth day after the meeting of the Senate.

SEC. 2. Be it enacted, That the State shall be divided into three districts; the first shall comprise that part of the State now comprised in the first *Gubernatorial district*; the second, that of the *third Gubernatorial district*; and the third, that of the *second Gubernatorial district*.

SEC. 3. Be it enacted, That the said Agricultural Chemist **SHALL SPEND ONE YEAR**, the first beginning on the date of his appointment, **IN EACH OF SAID DISTRICTS, in the order named**; it shall also be his duty to **SPEND ONE MONTH IN EACH COUNTY, and Howard District, and visit EACH ELECTION DISTRICT**.

SEC. 4. Be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of said Agricultural Chemist, to analyse specimens of each variety of soil of the county in which he shall be, that may be brought to him, or that he may find to exist; and also to examine, and if necessary, analyse specimens of each kind of marl, or other vegetable or mineral deposit that may come to his knowledge, in order that his instructions may be of more practical utility.

SEC. 5. Be it enacted, That it shall also be his further duty, to deliver one public lecture, after having given timely notice thereof, in each election district in each county, and then to deliver a course of public lectures of each county town, and at some central place in BALTIMORE COUNTY, after having given also sufficient notice thereof in each election district, and he shall also permit the clerk of the levy court, or the commissioners of tax, as the case may be, to take a copy of such course of lectures, to be retained and kept for the use and benefit of the county, and published by said levy court or commissioners of the tax, if to them it shall seem expedient.

SEC. 6. Be it enacted, That the said Chemist shall make an annual report to the House of Delegates, if in session, and if not, then to the Governor, whose duty it shall be to cause the same to be published, of his proceedings, and such other matters touching the Agricultural interest of the State, as may be considered necessary.

SEC. 7. And be it enacted, That for the faithful discharge of his duties, the said chemist shall receive the annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars, to be paid as the salaries of other officers are, or may be paid, and for the purchase of chemical implements and materials, the said chemist shall be allowed for the first year, the sum of **two hundred dollars in advance**, and on each succeeding year, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars, out of such monies as may be in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

Under this act the present incumbent was appointed, and he proceeded to the district designated in the second section, which comprised the first Gubernatorial district of the State, consisting of the eight Eastern Shore Counties, viz: Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester. He took with him his laboratory—he delivered lectures, and analysed soils, visiting every County on the Shore, *within the time prescribed by the law*, and at the next ensuing session of the Legislature, he presented his Report, which was received with much commendation, and a large number of copies were ordered to be printed and circulated, at the expense of the State.

Thus far, the requirements of the law were apparently complied with, and we will do the State Chemist the justice to say, that in general, satisfaction was evinced at the result of his labors, and his salary was increased after that year, if we remember aright, to two thousand dollars.

The next year he entered upon his duties in the third Gubernatorial district, as the law required—this comprised the seven South-western Counties of the State, viz: Montgomery, Howard, P. George's, Calvert, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, and Charles Counties. This district, it will be seen, comprised one county less than that which he visited the first year, but as the Legislature did not convene for two years after the first Report was made, a slight liberty was taken with the law, by a failure to fulfil the duties required under it, in taking *two years* to accomplish the work which the law says shall be done in *one*—and a total failure, (so far as the public have been made acquainted,) to make a Report, as required by section 6, as above, to the Governor, when the Legislature was not in session. We well remember the complaints which were made by the farmers and planters of that district, during these two years, from the loose manner in which the law was carried out in their respective counties; they had anticipated much benefit from its operation, but, from what came under our observation, there was a very general disappointment in the results. How many lectures were delivered, farms examined, and specimens of soil analyzed, and especially how many of the levy courts deemed this office of sufficient importance to induce them to demand a copy of the lectures for publication, as the law of the State permitted, it is not in our power to determine. We do not intend to intimate, that all these requirements were not complied with, but as we had been obliged by our position to give considerable attention to passing events at the time, in connexion with this office, we could obtain but little information of a satisfactory character, and found very few who could enlighten us, notwithstanding the most diligent enquiries to ob-

tain it, to satisfy the frequent enquiries then made of us upon the subject.

At the next session of the Legislature, the second report of this officer was published; and that body not only overlooked the neglect of the provisions of the law, as noted above,—in consequence, perhaps, of the complaint, that the labors required were too much for one person,—but, by a new enactment, gave the State Chemist an assistant, and relieved him from the necessity of carrying his laboratory with him throughout the State. This law passed at December session, 1850, (chap. 195,) and provides,

Sec. 1. for the appointment of an Assistant, to aid the State Chemist in the performance of his duties, and authorised him "to locate his laboratory permanently in the city of Baltimore, where all soils, marls, limestones, minerals and manures, of this State, which may be deposited in his office for that purpose, shall be analysed by said Chemist, or his Assistant, *FREE OF CHARGE*."

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the said Chemist shall not remain a shorter time than one month, nor a longer time than three months, in any one county, unless by special license of the Governor, when the exigency of the case may demand a longer time; and that lectures be delivered at such times and places as he may deem most subservient to the public interest; Provided, that not less than three lectures be delivered in each county he may hereafter visit, in compliance with the provisions of the Act of eighteen hundred and forty-seven, Chapter two hundred and forty-nine; and that he make a printed Report annually to the House of Delegates, to the number of one thousand copies, or as many more, as the House of Delegates or Senate may direct; and the cost of said Reports shall not exceed ten cents per copy, and shall contain whatever matters may best subserve the Agricultural interests of the State.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That the Assistant shall receive the annual salary of one thousand dollars, to be paid as the salaries of other civil officers now are, or may be paid; and that for the expense of said Laboratory, the State Chemist shall be allowed the sum of four hundred and fifty dollars, to be annually paid in advance.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That all Acts, or parts of Acts, contrary to this Act, be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be in force from and after its passage, and shall continue in force until the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, and until the end of the next session of the General Assembly that shall commence thereafter, unless sooner repealed by the Legislature.

It would have been supposed, that after this liberal action of the Legislature, the State Chemist would have entered upon his duties for the ensuing year with increased energy. He was invested with the power of selecting his own Assistant, with a salary of \$1000 per annum. He was released from the trouble and expense of lugging his laboratory through the State. The expenses of the laboratory were permitted to be increased from \$50 to \$450, and that to be paid annually in advance—the num-

ber of lectures in each county were decreased—and he was relieved of much of his labor of analysing, by the aid of his Assistant. Surely it would have been supposed, that the remaining requirements of the law would now be faithfully and diligently performed, and that that important section of the State, in which the law required him now to operate, would have had some degree of justice done it, paying, as it does, so large a share of the taxes for the support of the Government. How far these just expectations were fulfilled, let the sequel prove.

We have before us the third Report of the State Chemist, (made at December session, 1852,) in which we are to look for the record of his labors since the prior session, in the last of the three Gubernatorial districts, of the State, comprising Alleghany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, and Howard Counties, and the city of Baltimore. This Report contains many good things—and of some interest to those who understand them—but we doubt very much whether any member of the Legislature ever contemplated, that in the last clause of the sixth section of the Act of 1847, as above, liberty was given to compile a book of matters and things in general, to be printed and paid for at the public expense. On the contrary, reason would say, that it was intended principally for a delineation of the agricultural characteristics of the counties, the nature of the soil, and such information as would enable the owners of land to apply some of the lights of science to the improvement of their farms, as is clearly shown in the 4th section of the law. If a book on Agricultural Chemistry was contemplated, the State, for the hundredth part of the expense the present system, as executed, has cost, could a thousand fold have been better served, by the publication of Waring's or Norton's Elements of Agriculture, or Johnson on Lime, &c. so far as practical instruction to the farmers is concerned. But what evidence does the Report present of his *labors* during the intervening sessions of the Legislature? We find a pamphlet of 160 pages, upon subjects, it is true, appertaining to agriculture and agricultural chemistry—obtained, no doubt, from most reliable sources, and the best authorities, the most of which could have been prepared without leaving his Laboratory.—But where is the evidence of his own labors? The law required him to go through the district, in one year. He could accomplish that task in the first district, by visiting and examining the eight counties of the Eastern Shore—he required, 'tis true, twice that length of time for the next district, though it contained one county less than the preceding; but the third district contained but six counties, besides our city, and the State had relieved him of much that had before been required of him, and very lib-

erally allowed him an Assistant, to take off from his hands a portion of the drudgery of the Laboratory—surely with these helps, there will have been some attention paid to the requirements of the law under which a liberal salary was being paid by the heavily taxed farmers of the State. Well, let us examine this voluminous report, much of it so interesting, that, notwithstanding the State had before paid for the printing of it, a large portion of the book is found to be made up of the contents of his second report! Even the labor of preparing original matter—that is, original so far as the reports were concerned—easy as that might have been found, was not vouchsafed to the public!

But where is the evidence of the doings of the State Chemist during the period alluded to, as found in the book? Let us examine it, and it will be found on the 123d page, that Washington county is spoken of, and some statistics given of it, which are taken from the census report; the geographical features of the county, which could be found probably in any school book, upon this branch of education—and then follows some general remarks on the soils of the county, and the analyses of some of them are given. These matters take up about 13 pages of the 160—to which is added the number of turnpike roads, and their advantages in Washington county, their cost, length, and other equally interesting particulars for a document of the kind, occupying another page—then follows a short chapter on its agricultural implements and stock—an other on the manner of saving the manure, which can be found in any work on agriculture—and lastly, on the agricultural enterprise and spirit of the county, as displayed in their County Show, and the hospitality of the people—making, altogether, about twenty out of the 160 pages, which has really any reference,—and most of that, even, in a very small degree,—to the matters pertaining specially to the duties of the office—and for this how much has the State been called upon to pay? Let the tax-paying farmers reckon up the cost.

Here then we have the evidence presented by the Report of this officer, that in two years he had visited ONE COUNTY, and probably but a small portion of it, instead of the entire Gubernatorial district, comprising the six counties before specified, as the LAW IMPERATIVELY REQUIRED HIM TO DO IN ONE YEAR!

Every farmer, and we hope every representative of the farming interest, will examine this matter in connexion with the laws of the State, given above, and form their own conclusions.

As to the estimate the people of Washington county seemed to place upon these labors, we would remark, that a newspaper discussion was kept up for some months afterwards, in which not the most complimentary views were expressed, in regard to the labors of the State Chemist in that county.

At the next session of the Legislature, the 4th report was published, in which a record of his proceedings since the preceding session was naturally expected—and what do we find as the evidence of his labors? In a book of one hundred pages, four pages are devoted to some general remarks upon the geographical and agricultural characteristics of Alleghany County, giving very little evidence of more than a hasty visit or investigation thereof—12 pages devoted to the subject of certain coal regions in that county, the results of which were no doubt interesting to capitalists and speculators in coal lands; the analysis of some half dozen specimens of soil is also given, with some remarks thereon; and the balance of the report is as usual, made up of matters and things in general, of a similar character to those which preceded it—useful and instructive, no doubt, to those whose education had fitted them to comprehend the subjects treated of, but certainly, according to our interpretation of the law, never contemplated by those who enacted it.

We thus find another year spent in this Gubernatorial district, and the evidence is given in this officer's Report, that he had visited one other county, or perhaps only a portion of a county, of the six comprising it! Three years to perform a duty, (divested as it was by the law of 1850, of a large portion of its labors,) which the State required should be performed in one; and yet more than two thirds of the district are, up to the time which this Report brings us, still unvisited, so far as any evidence is presented therein. Harford, Carroll, Frederick, and Baltimore county and city, after the expiration of six years, since the law went into operation, have received no benefit, direct or indirect, that we can discover, from its operation. And yet, the first year, the whole of the Eastern Shore district was examined and reported on, and the two subsequent years, the South-western district had also been visited. Comment is useless upon so glaring an evidence of contempt for the laws of the State.

In making these comments, we wish not to be considered as desiring to underrate the information selected and prepared by the State Chemist, in his Reports, but to show that the evident objects of the law have been disregarded—the sixth section of which, defining, 1st, the proceedings of the officer; and secondly, such other matters touching the agricultural interest of the State, as may be considered necessary; but, as before intimated, this was never intended to make the main object of the reports a compilation of books upon the abstract science of Chemistry, but only so far as they coincided with the main duties of the officer, in developing the agricultural resources of the counties which should be visited by him. Nine-tenths, probably, of the contents of the reports of the State Chemist, after the first year, could have been written in his closet,

with a few works on geography, chemistry, geology, and mineralogy at his command, without ever visiting a single county in the State.

But we have already extended these remarks beyond what we desired, and must again come to the point we had in view, which is to show that the law under which the State Chemist is receiving his salary, has been almost entirely set aside—that is, let it be understood, according to our view of the law. But why need we dilate upon this subject? The fourth report, now before us, boldly avows to the Legislature, the fact, that "*the letter of the law was disobeyed*," but it is declared, "*its spirit is carried out*,"—and he bases this conclusion upon the fact, that the labor required of one man was impossible to be accomplished, and he only asked "*to be judged by what he had done, not what was impossible for him to do*." Did he not, under the law, when without the assistant which the State allowed him when he wrote this,—with his Laboratory being carried about from post to pillar—with the delivery of lectures in every district in each county, instead of the number being reduced to three, as at that time, under the law of 1850—did he not then carry out *the letter of the law*, at least to an extent which gave much satisfaction, and gained for himself considerable eclat?

But in what manner, however, in the remotest degree, the *spirit* of the law has been carried out, we confess our inability to perceive.

How the members of the last Legislature from the upper Gubernatorial district could have permitted this state of things to continue without an investigation, we are utterly at a loss to conceive—they certainly justly merited a rebuke for so great a want of attention to a subject in which their constituents were so deeply interested. They did, however, begin to find, that the State was paying rather too dear for the whistle, and at the December session of 1853, the law under which the Assistant was appointed, expired by its own limitation, and was not again re-enacted. But if there was any virtue left in the system at all, which we much doubt, we are rather inclined to think that the *wrong end* of it was thus dispensed with.

After the session of 1853, we lose sight of the State Chemist, (so far, we mean, as the duties of the office are concerned,) until within the last few weeks, when the first intimation we have of his public movements, is found in the Frederick papers, of the 16th November, from which we copy the following advertisement, word for word:

NOTICE.

To the People of Frederick County.

DR. HIGGINS, State Agricultural Chemist, respectfully announces to the citizens of Frederick County, the following Lectures:—At Urbana, on Friday, the 23d inst. Jefferson, on Saturday, the 24th inst.

Burkittsville, on Monday, the 26th inst.
 Middletown, on Tuesday, the 27th inst.
 Creagerstown, on Wednesday, the 28th.
 Emmitsburg, on Thursday, the 29th inst.
 Liberty, on Friday, the 30th inst.
 New Market, Saturday, December 1st.
 [Lectures to commence at 6 o'clock.]

SUBJECT—Nature and composition of the various soils, adjacent and the cheapest and most certain means for their improvement.

The friends of Agriculture are requested to prepare some suitable place for the Lectures, and diffuse the above notices as widely as possible.

The Lecture in Frederick will be given during the winter, of which due notice will be given.

We find here, in the large county of Frederick, just as the Legislature is about assembling, that the county is to be examined, and lectures delivered in eight different districts, *in about as many days*—provided, we suppose, “the friends of Agriculture” will “prepare some suitable place for the Lectures”—and this is to be done within about one week’s notice; and what if no place is prepared “by the friends of Agriculture?” How could the people consult together in that time? and how could the State Chemist know the character of their soils,—and how could a lecture on one subject, and that so indistinctly set forth, be suitable for all the districts of the County, we leave for others to determine—perhaps the plain, honest farmers of Frederick understood the matter—we certainly find it difficult to do so.

This, we say, is the first public evidence we have for the last two years, that the office was in existence, (so far as attention to the duties of the same under the law, is concerned.)—We may have overlooked it, but we are in receipt of nearly all the newspapers published in the upper district, and are in daily correspondence or intercourse with farmers from all quarters of the State, and notwithstanding we have frequently made the enquiry, we have neither seen nor heard of any movement in this district, in regard to the labors of this officer, until the above annunciation in the Frederick paper. Perhaps, in the forthcoming Report, which we suppose will be laid before the Legislature, we may find some evidence which has escaped our observation. But what we wish particularly to draw attention to, is the fact, that, although the law requires him to go through the district in ONE YEAR, that it is now FIVE YEARS since the upper Gubernatorial district was commenced on, and but three counties only, (so far as we have any public evidence upon the subject,) have yet been visited, leaving three counties out of the six, and the city, to have their share, (if any benefit is to be derived at all from it,) in the operations of the law.

We have said above, we have heard of no movement under the law of his appointment, by the State Chemist—but we have, on sundry occasions,

heard of farmers, who have carried soils to be analyzed by him, but in consequence of being deprived by the Legislature of the services of his Assistant, he declined to perform that duty, and referred them to that Assistant, (who is, if we are not mistaken, associated in business with him,) and who occupies the premises used as the Laboratory of the State Chemist, and were told, that for the usual fees he would do it for them. If this be so, and is a general practice, the natural conclusion is, that neither in the field, or in the Laboratory, have the requirements of the law been complied with.

In drawing attention to this subject, we perform a duty, to which we have been repeatedly urged, and which we have perhaps too long delayed. We do it most reluctantly, because in doing so we necessarily come in conflict with personal interests; as conductors however of a Journal devoted especially to the interests of the Agricultural community, our duty to them is paramount to any other consideration, and that duty we can no longer overlook. We ask attention to the law and the testimony we have presented—our opinions may go for what they are worth, but the facts presented are worthy the serious consideration of the farmers of Maryland, and of those whose especial duty it is, to look to the proper execution of the laws.

GAS HOUSE LIME.

Castle Blaney Farm, Dec. 7, 1855.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

In your number for this month you ask for information as to the “practical” use of “gas house lime.” In the Fall of 1843 I purchased, at 4 cts. per bushel, at the Baltimore Gas Works, several hundred bushels of said lime, and had it very evenly spread on grass land, (Timothy and other grasses mixed,) at the rate of 100 bushels per acre, and expected to see some improvement in the crop of grass the ensuing year, but could see none whatever, and the crop of that part of the field so limed, did not differ at all from the adjoining part, which was not limed—nor did I see any difference in the subsequent year of 1845, nor yet the following year, 1846, when I had the whole field put in corn, and I came to the conclusion that it was WORTHLESS, although many intelligent practical farmers may think otherwise—which you will find to be the case as it regards every other agricultural “nostrum” of the day, the most of which I have tried, and tried fairly, often after having been disappointed more than once in the same article; and I can assure you, that I am more than ever confirmed in the opinion I advanced in a communication to your paper more than five years ago, that nearly every article, (except good bones and Peruvian Guano,) generally pressed upon farmers as new manures, are in truth, “Humbugs.” I say this with all due respect to the vendors and others who may differ from me; but it is my experience, and it cost me no small amount of money.

Yours, &c.

EDWD. REYNOLDS.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND.

The late Exhibition of the Society of this county, was one of the most successful which they have ever held, and showed the advance which was making in all the branches of domestic economy. The Hon. Andrew Stevenson, the distinguished statesman of Virginia, delivered the annual address before the Society, which is spoken of in the highest terms by those who were present on the occasion. The Society asked for a copy of the address, and in the reply Mr. S. takes occasion to refer to the beneficial effects which the Agricultural Societies, both State and County, have had in the improvement of the agriculture of our State—and points to the propriety of the State's aiding these Societies in their dissemination of practical knowledge among the people. We ask the particular attention of the members elect of our legislature, to the importance of this subject, so eloquently and truthfully advanced by this venerable and eminent son of the Old Dominion, as the subject will be brought prominently before them by our State Society, at its coming session. The farmers have been too long put off with *hopes deferred*, and thousands of dollars are annually paid in sinecure offices and *emoluments*, expended avowedly for the benefit of Agriculture, which, if judiciously applied to educating the future farmers of the State, will put Agriculture upon so permanent a basis, that it will soon a hundred fold refund to the Treasury of Maryland, all that may be expended for the support of Schools and Colleges, for the education of farmers' sons, to qualify them for the profession of their fathers, which is now daily rising in dignity and importance. Mr. Stevenson says:—

"If there was one sober-minded cultivator of the soil in your county, who still entertains doubts as to the value of Agricultural Societies and Associations, and of the utility, nay, necessity of practical science and education, connected with agriculture, he ought to have been present at your Exhibition, that he might have been convicted of his delusion, and renounced his *heresy*.

I said in the course of my address, and take occasion now to repeat it, that the results of your Society, and that of the State Society of Maryland, had not only nobly accredited the wisdom and patriotism of their founders, but had spread over the whole State a new zeal in favor of agricultural improvement and high farming, and added four-fold to the productions of the greater portion of the cultivated lands of Maryland. I need hardly say how strongly this has been illustrated in the range of country lying between Georgetown and Washington, and Rockville, the capital of your County. A few years ago, this whole district was not only sterile and unproductive, but, with a few exceptions, a barren waste. The lands sold for not more than four or five dollars an acre, and produced from one to three barrels of corn, and some four or five bushels of wheat. Within the last ten years, the whole face of that part of the country has been changed. Now are to be seen, little else than fine farms, rich verdure, excellent enclosures,

comfortable and tasteful dwellings, neat churches, and an industrious and thriving population. The lands are now selling from \$25 to \$50, and in some localities for \$80 an acre, and producing from ten to fifteen barrels of corn, and thirty or forty bushels of wheat.

And all this result of practical science, industry, and enterprise, aided by the influence of your Agricultural Societies, and that new spirit connected with human improvement, which is abroad in the world. And yet, gentlemen, allow me to say, that, notwithstanding all this, there is much which remains still to be done, to place the agricultural interests of your own State, as well as those of most other Atlantic States, upon their true basis, and enable the farming classes to assume the rank to which they are entitled, at the head of other professions, and which I ardently trust they are soon destined to reach: but let it be borne in mind, that, to accomplish this, *two or three things* are indispensably necessary.

First.—There must be an enlarged and general system of agricultural education, and a knowledge of practical science, amongst the great body of our farmers.

Secondly.—There must be united action and liberal patronage on the part of individuals and the State Governments; and

Thirdly.—The minds of the farming classes must be deeply impressed with the truth, that the cultivation of the soil is the foundation of public prosperity.—And why shall not this be done? Why is it that agriculture has so long failed to assert its just claim to respectability, and place itself upon its true basis? Why is it, that whilst our State Governments and people bestow life and energy upon all other professions and branches of national industry, agriculture alone is suffered to languish and take care of itself? And more especially may this be asked in an age like the present, when everything in art and science seems to be bearing on the interests and destinies of man, and in no department of knowledge, with greater progress and success, than in that connected with our field industry? Everything should seem to favor the advancement and triumph of agricultural skill and science. Each succeeding year is adding to the public enthusiasm for the success of agriculture, which is enlisting in its favor not only all the best sympathies of humanity, but the services of so many of the good and great men of our country. Why then should the friends of agricultural improvement despair of success? Never! We must trust in the integrity of our noble cause; in the virtue and intelligence of the people, and in the wisdom and patriotism of their representatives. They are under the control of public opinion, and we must try and bring the public mind to bear with a greater force and concentration, upon the vital importance of fostering our agricultural interests, and the necessity of their advancement and success.

The members of all the agricultural Societies throughout the country, should feel it to be their duty to urge upon the cultivators of the soil, the absolute necessity of *united and concentrated action*, and continue as their open and fearless champions, to warn the *farmers* of the dangers that threaten, and the means of escape, and if they fail, it will be, because *they will prove unfaithful to themselves, and those who are to come after them*. But I must forbear, and renewing to you, gentlemen, assurances of my high respects and considerations, I re-

main very respectfully, your friend and obedient servant,

ANDREW STEVENSON.

Similar broad and comprehensive views were brought before our State Society at its first annual meeting, by the orator on that occasion,—Col. Wilson M. Carey, of Baltimore—and the forcible arguments which he adduced in that address, have ever since been deeply impressed upon our mind, and more than once we have had occasion to refer thereto, it being the stand-point from which we have viewed this all-important subject of agricultural education to the rising generation. We now fully agree with "Ploughboy," an able writer in the Baltimore County Advocate, who has taken hold of this subject, and promises with his vigorous pen to keep it before the people during the coming winter, that the Legislature began at the wrong end, in its efforts to subserve the farming interests, and the sooner it retraces its steps, the better for the tax-payers generally, and for the farming and planting interests in particular.

VENEZUELIAN GUANO.

In addition to the introduction of the Guano from the Pacific, (see page 203,) we find by the following article from a recent number of the *Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post*, that we may shortly expect a supply from another source, of a superior variety of Guano, which will come into competition principally with the Mexican and other kinds used for the phosphates they contain. We know nothing farther of this discovery than what is contained in the following notice of it from the Post:

We have recently been informed of the discovery of extensive deposits of guano on the island of the Caribbean Sea, belonging to and under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Venezuela. As the value of guano, as a fertilizing agent, is becoming more known and appreciated, every year must largely increase its consumption, and any additional discovery of the article cannot but be regarded as of the utmost importance to the farmer, as tending to increase the supply and lessen its price. We therefore present to our agricultural readers such facts concerning this discovery as are in our possession.

The islands on which these deposits exist are situated a few degrees north of the Equator, and only nineteen hundred miles from our chief Atlantic ports, so that the cost of transporting it will be trifling, compared with the cost of bringing the article from the islands in the Pacific Ocean. It is estimated that the amount of guano on the islands referred to, exceeds five millions of tons, of excellent quality. Some of the deposits contain a very large per centage of ammonia; while in that of others the super phosphate of lime predominates, with but a small amount of ammonia. An analysis made by Professor Booth, of sample, gives 78 per cent. of super phosphate of lime, which is nearly fifty per cent. greater than that obtained from bone dust. Agricultural chemistry has proven the fact, beyond controversy, that phosphate of lime is the most essential element entering into the construction of vegetable matter. It is well ascertain-

ed that plants derive their nourishment from the atmosphere and soil. The atmosphere furnishes carbonic acid, ammonia, and a combination of nitrogen and water. The former serve in the gaseous form, and water in fluid, to sustain the plant after it has acquired leaves. The soil receives with the rain, snow, hail, &c., carbonic acid and ammonia, by which the plant sustains its growth through its roots, until it can provide for its future wants through its many-mouthed leaves.

The soil, in addition to its supplies from the air, contains within itself an inexhaustible supply of carbonic acid and ammonia, from the slow decay of its humus (woody fibre) and the countless myriads of insects and vegetable remains. But the matters which the soil sometimes does and sometimes does not furnish, are indispensable; and should these materials not be present, they must be supplied artificially, or exhaustion follows.—These are the various inorganic bodies, the mineral alkalis and salts. Without particularizing further, it is conceded that of all the alkaline salts most indispensable for plants designed for the food of men and animals, the most necessary constituent, which is required in the largest quantity, and for which the smallest provision exists in the soil for reproducing it, is the phosphate of lime, the importance of which substance may be estimated, when we consider that animals contain it as a vital constituent, and its secretion in the bones forms over ninety per cent. of the solid weight. In the absence of phosphates, no blood, no milk, no muscular fibre, could be formed; without phosphate of lime, our horses, sheep, and cattle would be without bones. We have briefly stated the above facts, in order to show the value of this new article of guano from Venezuela, on account of its richness in phosphates.

It will no doubt be gratifying to our agricultural friends to learn that these valuable guano islands have been leased from the Venezuelan Government for a long term of years by a number of enterprising capitalists of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, who have procured a charter from the State of Pennsylvania, with an authorized capital of one million of dollars. The name of the company is "The Philadelphia Guano Company," the office of which is in this city. The whole of the stock has been subscribed, and the company are making extensive preparations for a large importation of the article, to meet the demand for the spring crops. We understand that the guano will be sold at a reasonable price, and agencies established at all the principal marts.

FREDRICK Co. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At the annual meeting of this Society, held on 1st Nov., the following named gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Outerbridge Horsey.

Vice Presidents—James L. Davis, Valentine Adams, Jno. S. Motter, Michael Zimmerman, Michael Hoke, George Blessing, John H. Worthington, Col. Anthony Kimmell, Samuel Wolfe, Wm. Norris, Col. H. Dunlop, George M. Pitts, John W. Charlton, Dr. Wm. S. McPherson, David Kaylor, Richard Simmons.

S. H. O'Neal, Secretary and Treasurer.

Corresponding Secretary—Col. Edward Shriver.

The Fourth Cattle Show of the Society is to be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 15th, 16th and 17th of October, 1856.

NEW GUANO ISLAND.

It is fortunate for the farmers of our country, that just at this time when there appears to be a general disposition to shake off the shackles of the Peruvian monopolists, an opportunity is presented of at least introducing a competition in that valuable fertilizer.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the "Prospectus of the American Guano Company," from an old friend and correspondent well known in Eastern Virginia, now resident in New York, giving the outlines of the formation of a company, for the management of a guano Island in the Pacific—Some months ago we had information of the discovery of an Island, but there have been so many anticipations held out, of a similar character, which have proved fruitless, that we placed no great deal of confidence in the expectation that any good would grow out of this. But we have satisfactory reasons to believe that the discovery now made of an island in the Pacific, is beyond any doubt a reality, and that our Maryland and Virginia farmers will soon have the opportunity of testing the value of the guano to be introduced from it.

The island is described by affidavits of the discoverers, in possession of the Company, as follows:

"Its size is between eight and nine miles in circumference. Its shape is crescent, and is quite low and level. It has very good anchorage on the westerly side, where fifty to one hundred ships of the largest class can safely lie and load within fifty feet of the shore. Its formation is coral, and it is covered with a deposit, of depth unknown, the surface of which presents a lightish crust in some places, and porous in others. There being found thereon no trace of tree, shrub, or verdure of any sort, said deposit cannot have arisen from any vegetable substance; while the innumerable multitude of birds found there, coupled with the pungent smell evolved from their ordure, its color, its ashy, impalpable nature, its location in a dry and warm latitude, one and all unite to confirm the conviction that said deposit can be nothing but one vast bed of ammoniated guano."

The trustees of the Company on the 3d of October, 1855, submitted to the consideration of the President of the United States, a memorial requesting a recognition of their rights to the guano on said island, and that one of the United States vessels of war attached to the Pacific Squadron should be ordered thereto for that purpose.

They also simultaneously introduced one of the discoverers to the President, at whose request full statements in regard thereto were made to members of the Cabinet, and affidavits were left on file in the Navy Department.

And on the 5th inst. an agent of the Company, was dispatched for San Francisco, via Panama, with duplicate of said instructions and a letter of introduction to the Commodore, of which the following is a copy:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 31st, 1855.

Sir:—I take occasion to introduce to you Mr. George W. Benson, of the City of New York, who bears with him the instructions of the Department, addressed to you under date of the 20th inst., touch-

ing the discovery of a Guano Island in the Pacific Ocean.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. C. DOBBIN.
Commodore Wm. MERVINE, Commanding U. S. Squadron, Pacific Ocean.

The project for making this discovery available for agricultural purposes, is now so fully matured, and the co-operation of the United States Government has been so effectually secured, that two ships have been despatched by the company—one from the Atlantic and one from the Pacific, and a vessel belonging to the United States Pacific Squadron has also been ordered to convey two agents of the company to this island, to protect the interests of the company, survey the harbor, and estimate the character and quantity of the guano. One of the ships referred to is the Corea, which sailed from New London on the 18th of August last, with orders to touch at Talcuan, S. A., to take on board the agent of the company.

The interests of the Company are now considered so far secured, as to be beyond the reach of injury from any publicity that may be given to its affairs. One of the discoverers of the island made an affidavit before the members of the Cabinet at Washington, that in the year 1832 he discovered and landed on a certain barren and uninhabited island situated in the Pacific Ocean, more than five hundred miles from the main land and more than two hundred from any adjacent island; and that he had been cruising in those seas anterior to the time of said discovery, and the said island was wholly unknown (as far as he has been able to ascertain) prior to said above mentioned discovery.

He also landed on the island on two or three subsequent occasions, one of which was for the purposes of burying a deceased seaman.

It was on the authority of information thus received that Secretary Dobbin addressed Commodore Mervine of the Pacific squadron, directing that one of the ships under his command be despatched "with a view to ascertaining the correctness of the information, of protecting our citizens in their rights, and taking care of the interests of our country."

The annexed extracts show the great importance attached to this subject.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted on the 22d June, 1855, at the regular meeting of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, of the City of New York, held at the Repository, No. 531 Broadway:

WHEREAS, the Peruvian Government has monopoly of the supply of Guano throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, on account of said monopoly, the Farmers of this country have heretofore been obliged to pay for said article about \$50 a ton, and by a recent announcement of that Government there is no prospect hereafter of any reduction; and

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that islands containing large and valuable deposits of ammoniated guano have recently been discovered by citizens of the United States, who have made application to the Government at Washington for protection therein; and

WHEREAS, if said protection shall be afforded, the Farmers of this country will reap the benefit of said fertilizer at an advance of but \$1 on the freight of the same to our shores, instead of an onerous

tax of more than \$25 per ton now paid Peru; therefore,

RESOLVED, That it is the duty of the American Government to assert its sovereignty over any and all barren and uninhabitable guano islands of the ocean which have been or hereafter may be discovered by citizens of the United States, and which are situated so far from any continent that, according to the laws which govern nations, no other power can rightfully exercise jurisdiction over them, and to guarantee the right of property therein to the discoverer, his successors or assigns.

RESOLVED, That the Agricultural Societies of the several States be invited to concur in the fore-going, and to unite in calling upon our Government at Washington and the distinguished public men now before the country, for their views on this important question.

RESOLVED, That Bread being the staff of life, its abundance furnishes the basis of national prosperity.

RESOLVED, That the foregoing resolutions be printed in the form of a circular, signed by the President and Secretary, and transmitted to the County and State Agricultural Societies of the several States, to the President of the United States, and heads of departments at Washington.

ROBERT S. LIVINGSTON, *Chairman.*
HENRY MEIGS, *Secretary.*

AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE OF MARYLAND.

SEVERN SIDE, Anne Arundel Co., {
December 15, 1855. }

To the Editors of the *American Farmer*.

Gentlemen.—A season of comparative leisure, and it is hoped, of pleasure, has arrived for most of your readers. They have thankfully garnered their summer crops; have hopefully committed to the earth the seed for another harvest; have called their far roving stock into comfortable winter quarters; and finally have cast their ballots—a duty which land-holders should perform regularly and prudentially; and, I think, with a more especial reference to their own neglected interests in the legislation of the country. The important business of the year may, therefore, be said to have terminated; and certainly dame Nature is not in fault, if Winter finds the farmer in the same temper with herself,—“sullen and sad; all vapours, clouds and storms.”

Never, within my recollection, (but I am not one of “the oldest inhabitants,”) have there been more bountiful harvests, and better prices to compensate the anxious and laborious tiller of the soil, than in the year of grace now closing. From the opening of the bud, to the falling of the leaf, we have been blessed with shower and sunshine, so happily commingled, that our fields have seemed almost to sing for joy. Every hill and valley, touched by the hand of industry, has given a grateful return; while orchards and gardens have alike excited admiration by the abundance of their productions. The winter succeeding so profitable, and, in this region, so healthful a summer, should have no melancholy days for the husbandman.—The poets may sing sorrowfully—

“Of wailing winds and naked woods,
And meadows brown and sear;”

but the practical farmer will join in no such mournful strain. He will walk abroad with a gladsome and grateful heart, and look with satisfaction and

delight even upon the decaying leaves and grass; and the winds, cold though they are, will be musical, that bring to his ear “the measured beat of the thresher’s flail,” or the resounding blows of the woodman’s axe.

Perhaps too, if he is a friend and reader of the “American Farmer,” (and all the agriculturists of Maryland should be,) he will avail himself of the season to contribute something to its pages.—Considering that your paper circulates among as talented and observant farmers as can be found in the Union, I am always surprised, upon opening each welcome number, at the paucity of its contributors. Surely, there are hundreds of your subscribers, who could at least once a year, send you an article, which all would be pleased to read. It is this sort of familiar intercourse—written as well as oral—that we need, and always find both agreeable and profitable. I hope therefore, Messrs. Editors, that during the present and every succeeding winter, you will call for persons and papers from every county of the State, in order that we may have a more thorough knowledge of its agricultural condition; of its advances and retrogressions; its profits and losses; and especially of those benefits or evils, the attainment or correction of which demand the concerted action of our great brotherhood.

The deficiency to which I have just alluded, on the part of our Maryland farmers, is also made apparent from a glance of the last Patent Office Report. It does not contain a single article from our State—I at least, have not been able to find one, upon a cursory examination of that valuable document. Verily, Messieurs, if we did not know that modesty and philanthropy were prevailing traits among our fraternity, (ahem!) we might almost suppose that our country gentlemen had organized themselves into a secret society, and seriously determined to withhold their views, practices, and experience, from the public eye.

Now, in behalf of all young and inexperienced farmers, (of whom I am one,) who are aiming at a proper and perfect understanding of the profession; and who consider a knowledge of its common every day operations, and how best to perform them, as even more important than its scientific principles—I would earnestly appeal to all veteran husbandmen—aye, and *husbandwomen* too, to give in their valuable experiences fully and freely. We do not ask of them to write of things new and wonderful; but to give us that plain, practical information, which they can so well impart, and which would be of the greatest benefit to all who, like myself, have more interest in, than knowledge of, the business: how, for instance, they manage each kind of crop and stock; how they economise in time, labor or money; in short, about everything pertaining to *household, farmhold, and barnhold* affairs. They may reply—“Consult your neighbors.” So we do, and with such manifest advantage, that we are induced to desire the opinions of everybody, and of everybody’s neighbor.

Do not understand me, gentlemen, as complaining that your paper does not furnish enough practical matter relating to farming. On the contrary, I think it contains a fair share of it; and, moreover, I am not such an Egyptian as to expect you to make bricks without straw. In other words, I am not so unreasonable as to expect you, who are pent up within brick walls, to know and report fully upon the state of the country, the crops, im-

gements, and rural affairs generally, unless we of the field shall first report to you.

The American Farmer has proved itself to be the fast friend of the Agricultural community, and faithful guardian of her interests; always ready to oppose the exactions of the monopolist, and prompt to detect and expose the schemes of the speculator. If it did no more than this, it would be a valuable ally within the gates of our great commercial mart; and would deserve the patronage of every farmer in the State. But it is the vehicle of much useful agricultural knowledge; and its friends should make it, with your permission, Messrs. Editors, the receptacle of their united experiences, and of all the valuable facts that come under their observation.

I am sure it would afford you pleasure to be '*the medium*' of communication between the choice spirits, not of the departed, (peace to their manes!) but who yet dwell in the flesh among the mountains and low-lands of old Maryland.

I write to you, as you perceive gentlemen, from the banks of the Severn River; and will take occasion hereafter to send you some account of this much neglected, but most valuable country. Meanwhile believe me to be very sincerely, your

WELL WISHER.

[Our correspondent is welcome to our pages.—We hope his appeal will stir up others to a good work, which we are confident he has now but commenced.]

HORIZONTAL DITCHING—SOUTHERN LAND MURDER!

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

In travelling recently from Columbus, Mississippi, to Richmond, Va., through Alabama, Georgia, South and North Carolina, I was struck with the hill-side ditches which I observed on thousands of rolling plantations in Alabama and Georgia, to prevent the washing of their loose soils, and which was in fact, almost the only commendable feature which I observed in the *murderous* agriculture of the planting States. Just think, Messrs. Editors, of immense tracts of fertile soil, exhausted and thrown out of cultivation, in many places washed into gullies, and covered with yellow broom sedge, beautifully variegated with the green foliage of upstart pines, before they are cleared of their original growth—the old dead trees standing yet quite thick upon the ground! What possible apology can these vandal land-murderers offer to posterity for the destruction of their rich inheritance, when, by good ploughing, with two-mule ploughs, instead of scratching the surface with a one-mule scarifier; by horizontal ditching, to prevent the washing of undulating lands; by sowing rye and oat pastures for their stock; by always sowing their cornfields broadcast with the Southern Pea, at the last plowing; and by preparing their lands by pea-fallows, for their wheat crops, as recommended by that great farmer, E. Ruffin, in his Agricultural Essay, (which ought to be in the hands of every Southern farmer,) our planters might not only preserve their lands in fertility, but would, from the outset, fill their corn-cribs and smoke-houses, and cotton-pens, to bursting. This system will have to be adopted, sooner or later, or the Southern country—the cotton-growing region, I mean—will be exhausted and depopulated.

I have a friend, a young planter in Mississippi, who is determined to preserve the fertility of his land by the means I have indicated, and still keep every thing *fat* about him; raise his own stock and grain, and send to his commission merchant every year, at least five bales of cotton, to the hand.—Some of his land is quite steep, and requires ditching to prevent it from washing. He will therefore be very much obliged to you, Messrs. Editors, or to any of your correspondents, who will be kind enough to furnish him with full information upon the subject, stating how far apart the ditches ought to be made on moderately rolling land—how deep and wide—and the best mode of making them—with a plough and scraper, or otherwise, and the cost per hundred yards.

AN IMPROVER.

[Will some of our readers who are capable of giving the information asked, assist us in imparting it to our Southern friend?—Eds.]

THE JOINT WORM.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

GENTLEMEN:—My field, which I intended for corn next year, was my wheat field of 1854, and owing to the great drought of last year, and severe winter, my clover was nearly all killed, and the rag weed took possession, standing thick all over, which was the case of three other fields, but not to so great an extent. I commenced ploughing this field last week, with some misgivings about the worm. Upon examining the dead weeds, I found a great many worms in nearly every stock, corresponding to what I have seen described by some of your Albemarle, Va. Correspondents, as the joint worm—a small white worm, with a yellow head, about five-eighths of an inch long. I at once thought I would burn the field over, and destroy the pest, and made my man bring out a cart-load of straw, and strew along on one edge of the field, on the windward side, and set fire to the straw, but was disappointed, owing to there being too much green clover and grass below it.

Now what I wish to know from some of your Virginia correspondents, where the joint-worm has been troublesome, if I will run any risk about my corn, if I should not be able to burn my field over in time, as I prefer Fall ploughing, to guard against the cut worm. I know little or nothing about the habits of the joint-worm, except what I have seen in your very valuable paper. I have no recollection of seeing any damage they have done, except to the growing wheat, about the first to the middle of June. If the worm I find in the weed in my field should be the joint-worm, and attack my corn, as I have seen accounts of some of the wheat fields of Virginia, I should lose my entire crop, as it would then be too late to replant it, with any certainty of making a crop. I have thought of rolling the weed down, and waiting for a favorable day, fire it again. Any information on the subject would be thankfully received.

I had intended to say something about another pest we had this Summer—one entirely new here—in what was called the Oat Worm; but I will close this, and write you something about this new trouble at another time, if you will give it room in your valuable paper.

Yours, with great respect,

J. W. K.

For the American Farmer.

HOME-MADE MANURE—THE GUANO QUESTION.

CARROLL Co., Dec. 7, 1855.

Messrs. Editors:—I see going the rounds of the papers, an article from the "Maine Farmer," on the subject of "The Leaf Harvest," to which I think you would do well to call the attention of your patrons. The Guano mania has thrown many of us off our old track. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for an article we might do without, if we would only use up the means every one has on his own farm. Let us try and reform, keep the money we are sending out of the country for Guano, and apply a part of it to making *local* manure. I know that a prejudice exists against leaves, as utterly useless, but it is a great mistake. Leaves contain more potash than any other part of the tree, except the bark, and much more I believe, than the straw of our grain. Add to this, when dry, they absorb the liquid droppings of the stock. Leached bark, of the tan-yard, will also be found an excellent means of increasing home manure. I have made by these means, from my hogs alone, from 30 to 40 four horse wagon loads of the best kind of manure, a season. To be sure, I have a well arranged and roomy house, with out pens for these animals, at a cost of something like \$200, which is saved by the facility of feeding, and the less quantity of grain to fatten, and the manure in the bargain.

There is another matter, to which the attention of the farming community ought to be called.—Do we not all see the disproportion that exists between the price of grain and the price of meats? This has been the case for some years past. I speak more particularly in reference to the two past seasons; and yet our wheat and corn has gone to market by the bushel, while our acres have been calling to us to feed some at home, so they may be fed. Let us have more stall-fed beef and sheep and pork to send to market, and our acre will give a better return for what we sow.

I was forcibly struck some years ago with a remark made either by Arthur Young, or Sir J. Sinclair, in a correspondence between them and Gen. Washington, on the disproportion between the amount of stock kept on farms in this country, and the number of acres cultivated—intimating the exhausting tendency of such a course.

I have just received your No. for the current month—glad that farmers feel indignant at the course pursued by the managers of the Guano monopoly—hope they will make a powerful effort to be independent of this foreign fertilizer. If we do as we ought, we shall realize more *clear gain* in the end, and enjoy our independence in the bargain. Nothing like having our means under our own control.

Z.

The Pennsylvania Farm Journal, published in Philadelphia, will hereafter be edited by David A. Wells, Esq., editor of the Year Book of Agriculture, assisted by A. M. Spangler, the original editor and proprietor of the Journal, and other writers—a new volume commences with the Jan. No. The Journal has always been ably conducted, and the well known talents of the new editors, will no doubt add much to its future usefulness.

For the American Farmer.

THE MOUNTAIN LANDS OF WEST VIRGINIA.

The Little Kanawha river—the G. Kanawha, and its branches, below the Greenbrier—the Guyandotte, and the Big Sandy, water a mountainous country of very uniform character, and for the most part yet covered by its native forests. The rich bottoms along the principal rivers, have long since attracted settlers; but it is only of late that the soil of the mountain sides and tops has in some places been so improved as to show its value for agricultural purposes. Formerly the uncertainty of land titles was sufficient to keep off substantial settlers. The general roughness of the country, the labor of clearing off the wild growth, and the want of roads in former times, all stood in the way of emigrants, while the rich operations of the West possessed strong attractions for them, in spite of mud, mosquitoes and fevers.

Now, at last, the land titles of this country are generally settled; some good roads have been made through the mountains, and sufficient experiments have proved, that these mountain lands, when cleared, are excellently adapted to many valuable products.

There is every variety of soil, from a rich black mould, to poor piney land, and from loose sand, to stiff, heavy clay; generally the soil is a good mixture of the two. There is also every sort of exposure, from warm Southern nooks, to cool Northern hollows.

Although the soil is so various, and often quite steep, it is not so apt to be gullied by rains as the gentler slopes of East Virginia, or the limestone soils of the Valley.

A remarkable circumstance is, that crops on the mountain side are less affected by drought, than they are on the river bottoms. Of course they are less injured by excessive wet; but why should they not suffer more than level lands in a dry season? The reason is, that these mountains are composed of nearly horizontal layers of porous sand-stone and clay slate. The rains and snows of the winter and spring, keep the pores and crevices of those rocks charged with water, which oozes out during the summer into the soil that covers the rocks of the mountain sides, and keeps the soil moist, while the water that falls on level grounds, all sinks away, or is evaporated in a dry season. This also accounts for the fact, that many small, but permanent springs, are found on the mountain sides, and at their feet; some even near the top, which never fail. But the small streams in the valleys often disappear in a dry season, because they flow under their loose gravelly beds, where they can always be found by a little digging. At their sources in the mountain sides, the water seldom disappears entirely.

Fine crops of corn may be raised on these mountains, but the soil is more especially adapted to wheat and tobacco. For these valuable staples there is no better soil and climate in Virginia.—No where is the crop more certain, more plentiful, or of superior quality. The Kanawha mountain tobacco commands a high price in the Richmond market. Potatoes and turnips succeed equally well. For orchard fruits, grapes, berries and nuts, the mountains are decidedly better than the low grounds, the crop being more certain, and of superior quality. Every sort of fruit can find, on almost every square mile, the soil and exposure which suits it best.

Finally, these mountains are destined to become a fine grazing country. Rich, moist levels, may produce more grass to the acre, but for pasturage, few countries can excel these mountains, after they are cut and set in grass.

On newly cleared lands, the strong grasses, such as timothy, clover, and orchard grass, do beat; but after a few years, the winter grasses, such as the Kentucky blue grass, the Randal, or, as some call it, English blue grass, the Mesquit grass, &c., if they once get a start, take possession of the ground, and become permanent.—There is no doubt that the rescue grass, and the sweet vernal grass will also succeed. With winter pastures, in this mild climate, cattle will need little dry pasturage. Meanwhile, the woods afford good pasturage during 6 or 7 months in the year. Sheep and hogs can live all the year in the woods; the mast often keep hogs fat during the winter.

The clearing of these mountain lands with the axe and mattock, costs much labor. The custom is to girdle the large trees, and let them stand, while crops are raised among them. For pasture lands, it is found cheaper to cut down and burn the undergrowth, without grubbing, and to scatter grass seeds among them. Gradually the cattle and sheep kill the sprouts, while the grass takes root and occupies the ground.

In many parts, the fine oak and poplar timber may be sent profitably to market. The demand is now great, and yearly increasing, at the Kanawha salt works and coal mines, and along the Ohio river.

Why the trees on these mountains could not be profitably converted into potash, we know not. It is not done. But if Northern farmers have thus been paid for clearing their lands, why may it not be done here?

The inconvenience of cultivating very hilly lands is great. The mountain farmer must not use the heavy broad-footed horses in the plow and wagon, but oxen or mules. By the by, mule breeding would be a very profitable business here, as these hardy animals can get much of their living in the woods, and on blue grass pastures, they would need little winter feeding. As to the trouble of plowing and hauling on mountain sides, it may be a question whether it is worse than working in the mud of rich low lands.

What should recommend these mountains especially to a farmer, is the pure, healthy air, which he and his live stock will breathe. There is not in America a more healthy climate, than is found on the mountains of Kanawha. The small valleys among the mountains are healthy—quite so—but the sides and tops of the mountains have the most pure and invigorating atmosphere. He that lives on them, if he uses common prudence, will seldom need a physician; and here, if anywhere, may an invalid hope to recover sound health, and a healthy man hope to live to a good old age.—Here too, live stock of all sorts are healthier than they are in most low lands; the writer of this article speaks from experience. Five years ago, being advanced in life and in such bad health as to be obliged to give up his professional employments, he settled on the mountains near the Kanawha river, and commenced clearing a farm in the woods. In a year or two, he felt that the mountain air was renewing his constitution—that summer's heat did not oppress him, as it did in the low grounds; that

fatiguing exercise did not exhaust, but strengthened him, and that he could expose himself to the night air, and all weathers, without injury.—By imprudence in cold weather, he sometimes felt touches of an old complaint, the rheumatism, but by simply taking better care of himself for a few days, it left him.

Let me therefore recommend to farmers who design to emigrate, that they come and fairly examine this mountain land, before they go farther, and perhaps fare worse.

HENRY RUFFNER.

THE MUCK WORM—GAS HOUSE LIME.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

You wish to have the views of some of your readers who may have knowledge of the muck worm, as spoken of by Senator Pearce, as well as their experience in the use of Gas Lime, and its value.

As to the Worm spoken of by Senator Pearce, I have no doubt it is like those I have seen in Canada, Texas, and west of the Mississippi. They are always to be found under great accumulations of vegetable matter, rotten wood, &c., where they are bred and nourished in great numbers. A heavy dressing of Gas House or Oyster Shell Lime, by modifying the character of the soil, deprives them of suitable nourishment, and they perish. I consider the Gas House lime better than Stone lime, for this purpose.

In the Spring of 1854, I purchased of the Baltimore gas company, 3000 bushels of this gas lime, at 4 cts. per bushel, delivered, paid 2 cts. freight, applied it broadcast after planting, on 100,000 corn hills—corn stood well, while the bud worm, crows and insects, destroyed other fields. I applied this Spring 5,500 bushels with equal success, on another farm. The tenant thinks he will make the cost of the lime in the increase of the first crop. I bought from Mr. Benjamin Holt, City Block, Baltimore, 8000 bushels more last July. I have used as much as 50,000 bushels of gas, stone, and shell lime, got from the same gentleman, and I take pleasure in saying that I always get delivered what I buy.

Though an humble farmer, I take pleasure in replying to the inquiry of Senator Pearce, and thanking him at the same time for the many public documents he has sent me. I have been an improver of poor land with lime for more than 20 years.

Your humble Subscriber,

A. J. WILLIS.

POTTER'S LANDING, Caroline Co., Md. }
December 10, 1855.

Transactions of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.
We are indebted to our respected friend B. P. Johnson Esq., Secretary of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society, for a copy of the Transactions of the Society for 1854. We do not despair of returning the compliment, tho' the time may be distant, when we will be able to present our friend with a similar production from the Md. State Society.

The Country Gentleman.—Luther Tucker, Esq. editor of this excellent work, and also of the *Cultivator*, announces that he has associated with him his son in the conduct of these journals, which are among the most interesting and reliable in this country, and are worthy of the extensive encouragement which they have received.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, January 1, 1856.

TERMS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Per Annum, \$1 in advance—6 copies for \$5—13 copies for \$10—30 copies for \$20.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—For 1 square of 8 lines, for each insertion, \$1—1 square per annum, \$10—larger advertisements in proportion—for a page, \$100 per annum; a single insertion, \$15, and \$12 50 for each subsequent insertion, not exceeding five.

Address,

S. SANDS & WORTHINGTON,

Publishers of the "American Farmer,"

At the State Agricultural Society's Rooms, 128 Baltimore-st.

Over the "American Office," 5th door from North-st.

DE SUBSCRIBERS to the "American Farmer," who may be indebted for the same, or whose subscriptions commence with the present month, will find a statement of their accounts *enclosed in the present number*. The amount due by each is but a trifle—that *trifle*, however, we consider has been well earned, and we hope every friend of our journal will make it a matter of conscience to remit the amount due forthwith, before it is forgotten—as we have no doubt that the very insignificance of the sum, in nine cases out of ten, is the reason why it is overlooked—subscribers forgetting that the aggregate of our resources is made up of very small items. And we would ask those who may have occasion to remit us, (as well as other friends of our journal,) that they embrace the opportunity to obtain for us a new subscriber at the same time. We have much important work cut out for the present year, and we desire our arms to be strengthened by every friend of Agriculture, for the duties which lie before us.

THE NEW YEAR.

We take the occasion to offer to our readers not only the formal customary compliments, but our very hearty congratulations on the recurrence of the happy Christmas and New Year season—a season full of gladness always, for the never to be duly estimated "tidings of great joy" it commemorates, and now especially for the abundant overflowing signs around us of God's continued bounty.

In reviewing the past season, it strikes us at once, that the American farmer has perhaps never before so realized his immediate dependance upon the Author of all good, or the effects of His interposing Providence. The early spring of 1855 was a season of gloomy anticipation. The very short supplies of the old crops then on hand, the drought of 1854 extending through the winter of '55, and the spring time not affording even its accustomed showers, men's hearts had well nigh failed them, and for the first time in our history perhaps, the

idea came across our minds, that even in this great, rich, growing country, famine was not out of the question. But He who for his own good reasons withheld the early, gave us plentifully of the latter rains. He who gave the seed-time, turned not His face from the harvest. And in the grand result, from one end of the country to the other, behold how He has "opened us the windows of Heaven, and poured us out a blessing, that there is not room enough to receive it." It is fit and right, and our duty, that in remembrance and acknowledgment of this especial bounty to them above others, the tillers of the soil should "rejoice and be glad."

But high privileges impose high duties, and weighty responsibilities, and the wise man tempts his rejoicings, with serious views of the account he must give of the opportunities and talents at his disposal, and more earnest resolutions for the work before him. Turning this lesson to our own account, addressing now, intelligent farmers, men of education and reflection, who realize the high position they occupy—in looking over the great field of duty which lies before you as men of progress, what is it in your vocation, that strikes you as pre-eminently, beyond all comparison, *the work, the duty which is yours to do*, and which your present condition of prosperity especially imposes upon you? It is not the introduction of new processes of culture, or the improvement of old ones; not the more diligent application of science to Agricultural practice; not the discovery of new crops or new manures, not the improvement of the land, or of horses and oxen, of sheep and hogs. But far above, and superior to all these, yet comprehending them all, the improvement, the cultivation, the elevation of *the Farmer himself*.

The proposition is one which to those whom we are especially addressing requires merely its statement perhaps. Yet let one simple argument enforce it. Of the 30,000 farmers of the state of Maryland, equal we have no doubt to those of any other, we hazard nothing in saying there are 25,000, who do not read the very primer of Agricultural reading, the Agricultural newspaper. Men who despise and reject, or not correctly appreciating, neglect the first approaches of knowledge, and refuse the first glimmer of light intended to bear upon their pursuit, and who ignore instruction where it takes the form which pertains to their immediate business. With 50,000 farmers' sons, the young pliant, springing, hopeful mind of the State, she directs not one dollar of her funds to teach them that which concerns them as tillers of the soil. Which shall open their eyes to the mysteries of science, which underlie every branch of their pursuit. Which shall disabuse them of the silly notion, that stupidity and ignorance find, in

Agriculture, their most appropriate calling, and assure them that refinement and intelligence, the best gifts and highest attainments, may find an appropriate sphere upon the farm.

In the contemplation of this condition of things, the friends of improvement see their high duty. Let us address ourselves to it with ten-fold vigor, and in the cultivation of the farmer and the farmers' sons, find the remedy for all the ills and grievances of which they very often and very justly complain.

DECLINE IN BREADSTUFFS—MONETARY AFFAIRS—THE EUROPEAN WAR.—During the past month, a decided decline has taken place in flour and grain, caused mainly by the stringent state of the money market; the depressed state of the monetary affairs of Europe, has had a very deleterious effect on this country, as is always the case; added to this, is another very serious cause, especially during the month of December, against the legitimate business of our city, which it might be well for our Legislature to endeavor to apply a corrective.—The banks are required to make an exhibit of their affairs on the 1st of January, to the Legislature—and, evidently to make the best show possible on the occasion, the facilities at other times granted to business men, are circumscribed within the narrowest limits possible, at the very moment that accommodations are most needed—the active duties of the farmers, after harvest, in preparing for their wheat crop, and the saving their corn and other crops, in the fall, precludes many from getting their grain ready for market before the first of December, about which time a great influx takes place, when there is the least ability to purchase by our merchants and millers—consequently, as a general rule, December is the most inauspicious month in the year for the grain seller. If the Legislature would change the time for the Bank exhibits from January to July, and then to be made to, and published by, the Governor, the objects contemplated would be equally well accomplished, at a season of the year least likely to affect the trade of the city, and before the new crop of the farmer begins to appear. We throw out the suggestion to the members of the Legislature who represent the farming interest, as we believe that their constituents are the most directly interested in it.

Another cause of the depression in the grain market during the past month, is the result of the rumors of the prospects of peace in Europe. We have very little faith in the realization of these reports, from the present position of the belligerents; the Allies feel very confident of having the vantage ground, and will not be likely to forego their advantages, without imposing upon Russia such terms as

would humiliate her, and place her in a position that will not only force her to give up her long cherished policy, which has been maturing for more than half a century, but must at the same time bring her to the level of a second or third rate power—and she has not yet arrived at a point to submit to this.

The newly discovered Guano Island, in the Pacific, an account of which will be found on another page, contains, at the lowest estimate, it is said, many millions of tons of guano; and “being situated in a latitude where it seldom rains, if ever, the guano is consequently of the very best quality; and in consequence also of the trade winds favoring, voyages may be made much sooner than from the Chincha Islands.” If the anticipations in regard to this discovery shall be realized, (and every indication is given that they will,) the Peruvian Government will feel a sore disappointment, in having found so powerful a competitor in their staple production; and it is not difficult to foresee, that, *all things else being equal*, the farmers and planters of this country will most readily give the preference to the guano company’s enterprise—and the Peruvian government will thus realize the folly of their illiberal, not to say unjust and oppressive course, in their dealings with our people.

DIVISION OF THE FARM AND CLOVER CULTURE.

A subscriber at Pomonkey, Charles County, takes us to task with a good deal of severity for delinquency in passing over a matter which he thinks, and justly we admit, of much importance; viz: the proper division of the farm. He concludes his letter with the hope that he “has not trespassed on our time, patience or temper.” Our time and patience are very much at the service of our readers, and as our friend seems to have calculated largely upon our *temper*, we take the compliment, and are rather pleased at his good opinion of our amiability. In reply to our correspondent at *Summit Point, N. C.*, we asked that some of our experienced correspondents would let us hear from them on this subject of the division of the farm, and in expectation of a response, postponed the matter. As we are thus far disappointed we will throw out some views of our own, hoping that the introduction of the subject will lead to something better.

The three field system which our friend says is practised by himself and his neighbors, was denounced by Col. John Taylor in his *Arator* as “the most execrable within the scope of the imagination.” Yet this system takes a crop of corn or tobacco the first year, wheat or oats the second, and rests or lies out in grass from harvest of the second year, and throughout the third year—having

very nearly two years of rest from the taking off of the second crop to the time of breaking again for corn or tobacco. The four field system with a fallow for wheat, which he proposes, takes a crop of corn or tobacco, and two crops of small grain in four years, and gives in that time about the same amount of rest—a large portion of this time, viz: all after the second crop, is devoted to a growth of *rag weed*, which, however, perishes upon the land. But for this weed which seems to leave nothing but dry sticks to be returned to the land, this system with its extra crop of heavy fallow wheat, would be theoretically much more objectionable as regards the preservation of the soil than the three shift system. Yet we confess the most successful farming within our personal knowledge, both as to immediate results and the preservation of the soil, is done under this system. Our own knowledge of it is in Maryland, and we know that it is practiced with equal success in portions of Virginia. But the life of this system is the *red clover*; and we do not know that it is practised successfully where this most valuable improver is not relied upon, and where it does not flourish, and we suspect that the success of either rotation will depend mainly upon the careful culture of this plant. The four field system of Col. Taylor which he proposed as a substitute for that of three fields, left the third and fourth year entirely to grass. The fault of this is that the clover passing away during the third year, the fourth year is occupied with weeds of various sorts and blue grass, the former exhausting the land and the latter a serious enemy of wheat and clover. The land becomes what is termed *foul*, and clover refuses to grow upon it. Nothing is better settled in practice than the necessity of active, cleansing cultivation, for the successful cultivation of clover. The term "clover sick," being applicable rather to land full of crude vegetable matter not capable of being appropriated, than by the frequent recurrence of the very destructible clover plant.

The five field system which makes a clover fallow the fourth year and leaves the fifth year for rest, has the objection to it, that the fifth year must be given up to the natural growth of weeds; clover if sown, rarely succeeding upon fallow.

The point to be aimed at, is the largest amount of crop, with the least amount of injury to the land. To effect the least injury, or the most good to the land, the interval between the exhausting crops should be as far as possible occupied with such plants as are ameliorating themselves, and do not induce subsequent evils. The growth of weeds with their decay upon the surface may be ameliorating, but they leave their seeds, which may be ruinous to future crops, and are nurseries of insects. A blue grass turf is ameliorating in some respects, binding the soil to preserve it from washing, and affording a good bottom for the coming crop of corn, but blue grass as well as weeds, is the

enemy of the great ameliorator, clover. While clover is the *sine qua non*, it is of itself *everything*. It perfectly, entirely supplies all the needs of the most valuable plants at the very least cost. Nothing, therefore, which is inimical to it should be allowed in your system. Let the great aim be to grow clover. That will grow everything else. But not only has clover this value, but we believe that the system which grows the greatest amount of crops is the most favorable to its growth. That system, as we have said, which requires such quick succession of profitable crops as gives the clover when sown a well cleansed bed on which to grow. We have often seen this plant, even on worn out lands succeed much better after two successive crops of corn, than on the same lands after a single cleansing crop.

Acting upon these suggestions, we will say to our correspondent, that he may find the four field system he proposes, sowing wheat upon clover fallow and wheat or oats after corn, a suitable one. It is a system productive of crops. It is favorable to the growth of clover, because it affords no time for the accumulation of crude and indigestible vegetable matters in the soil. The clover itself and the *rag weed*, while they afford large returns of vegetable matter to the soil, are at the same time very destructible, readily decomposed, and available at once as food for the large crops grown.

For this system, and indeed for any system, a standing pasture, or extra pasture ground is essential. In nothing do we see more mismanagement than on this point of grazing our arable lands. Overstocking upon such lands, is the curse of any system. We profess to be tobacco or cotton planters, or corn and wheat growers, but we expect the same lands that we devote to these purposes to grow beef and mutton and wool and pork besides. We can't resist the temptation to "turn out" calves and lambs without number, until our stock accumulates on our hands, and we fail in both grain and stock in the vain attempt to produce both, upon ground sufficient only for one or the other, and we ruin the land by the same operation. If planting or grain growing is your business, keep your stock of horses, cattle, hogs, &c., at the least number, consistent with the proper conduct of your farm operations. If your circumstances of location, &c., make it desirable to raise or fatten stock for market, lessen your crops of grain and increase your grass, by having smaller and more fields and longer rotations, or by separating a portion of your land for grazing purposes. But in all cases make such provision for your stock, as will afford the fullest protection to your young clover. It should be grazed not at all or very lightly during the first season, and not at all the second year until it comes into full bloom. Then it may be advantageously grazed until the crop is pretty well trampled—it is desirable to have it lie

upon the ground. But the clover field should not be relied on as the pasture field of the farm stock.

We have a strong conviction, that a proper attention to stock raising, as one means of diversifying our farm productions, should enter more largely into the system of the region now mainly devoted to planting and grain growing. In doing so our grain fields though reduced in size, would very soon, under judicious management, yield as much grain with less labor, and we should have the additional profit of the stock. Under such a change of system longer rotations would be necessary, yielding more grass for hay and pasture. With five fields, where clover alone is now sown, we should sow clover and timothy. The system might be the same with the common four field system with clover fallow, except that the fallow might be postponed one year, giving a full season to the clover and timothy, and the next year to the timothy alone, should the clover "run out," and making a fallow of the timothy sod for wheat. We are not advised that there is anything in the timothy sod unfriendly to the growth of wheat, and have adopted in our practice this rotation. When more than five fields are desired, we should follow the system of four fields with clover fallow as far as the fallow, and then sow timothy and orchard grass with the fallow wheat, and leave these in possession as long as may be thought desirable. We thus under any change preserve the fallow for the important crop of wheat.

As to the time, &c., of sowing clover seed, (in reply to our correspondent,) we think it best on the whole, on any ordinary wheat lands to sow it with wheat following corn. Where the land is already strong enough, or can be made so, with concentrated fertilizers, wheat is a more profitable crop than oats, and much more favorable to the "setting" of young clover; nevertheless, if oats be the crop, we should not fail to sow clover seed. In land fit to grow clover, it will ordinarily succeed well with oats. When we intended to sow no grain, we should sow clover seed when the corn is "laid by," or early in September, if we could then run a spike tooth harrow over it. Being sown at this time, the clover comes into full bloom the following June, and of course the benefits of the crop are much earlier realised. As far as our experience and observation go, however, winter seeding is more successful when there is the same degree of preparation of the ground.

We earnestly desire to see the culture of clover prevail universally, but we have seen a great deal of costly seed thrown away upon lands incapable of producing it. It is a great mistake to suppose that it is worth while to sow it at all upon poor lands ordinarily, until we determine to be at the expense of fertilizing them sufficiently to produce a crop. If our advice could be taken, all expenditures for guano, bones, super-phosphate, &c.,

should be directed mainly to the growth of the clover crop, and on this foundation we should rely for future crops and permanent fertility.

FARM ACCOUNTS.

"Make money thy drudge for to follow thy work,
Make wisdom comptroller, and order thy clerk—
Provision cater, and skill to be cook—
Make steward of all, pen, ink, and thy book."—
Tusser.

We introduce to our readers, as *apropos* to the time of the year, the subject of Farm Accounts. We do not propose to argue the importance of this point of good Husbandry. There are few, we suppose, who deny or doubt its value, and we certainly urge it upon all, but especially our young friends. Nothing tends more to exactness in the details of Farm Management—nothing so corrects and informs the judgment, in every matter on which it bears; and it is especially necessary, that a man may know really what he is about.—How can he correct his errors, unless he is informed as to the results of his practice? How can he know, and how can he show, that his business pays? We say how can he show it—for we should hold him a benefactor to this noble pursuit, who will help to make the truth apparent, that farming profits, while they are more moderate than they frequently are in other pursuits, are more uniform, and tend much more surely to a permanent independence. This truth well established, will be very effective in retaining in the service of agriculture the talents of many young men, who are now lured off to the dangers of city life, by false notions of great gains.

We introduced the subject, however, not to show the importance of it, for we assume that to be admitted, but to make some practical suggestions for the use of those, who, while they desire to keep accounts, are frightened off by the array of Ledger, Invoice Book, Stock Book, wages book, cash book, &c. Unfortunately, farmers are so little trained to exact business habits—are so frequently unfamiliar with "Pen, Ink, and Book," that all these are out of the question. For the benefit of such, we reduce the matter of farm accounts to its simplest forms. A book which he may carry in his coat pocket, and which he may buy properly ruled for a dollar, will be sufficient.

A cash account of course is the first thing. On one page will be entered every dollar, received from whatever source, and on the opposite page, every dollar expended. This account will not have reference to the farm alone, but to all other money concerns. It will show all receipts and expenditures from the beginning to the end of the year, and is an entirely distinct account from the farm account proper.

For the Farm account proper, the first thing necessary, is an exact valuation, as near as possible, of the stock in trade, as the merchants would

call it. Put such a valuation on the land, as it would probably bring in the market. Then take an inventory of stock, item by item—of every horse, ox, cow, carts, gearing, ploughs, &c. Estimate corn in the crib, killed pork, hay, fodder-house and shucks, blades, potatoes, turnips, lot of old bacon, &c., even down to such an item as half a sack of salt, or a barrel of plaster. Let the inventory be as complete as would be made by a sworn appraiser, and it will show as near as possible, the whole value of capital engaged in your business. You are to expect to have the interest paid upon this capital by your business, as a matter of course. Five per cent. on the value of the land, and ten upon the more perishable portion of the investment, to cover wear and tear. All beyond this, may go to the credit of your own good management, and be set off by your personal services, or you may add it to the clear net income, and show that your investment, under your skilful management, is yielding an average of ten, or fifteen, or twenty per cent., as the case may be.

In making the account, the interest upon your money invested, together with every current expenditure, is to go upon one side of it, and every thing which the farm pays you from sales, &c., on the other side. Let it be stated in this way, running across the tops of the pages.

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To 10 per cent. on \$1,500, value of farm, stock and implempts, as per inventory, - - - - -	150.00
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Pork, 5000 pounds, at 6 cents, - - - - -	300.00
Total value of Hay and other pro-	
vender, as per inventory, - - - - -	250.00
To bills of clothing, - - - - -	250.00
To Taxes, - - - - -	75.00
To Doctor's bill, - - - - -	50.00
To 60 bushels of Wheat, sown at \$3 per bus., including labor of seeding, - - - - -	180.00
To sundry bills for mending im-	
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By 1,000 bushels Wheat, at \$1.50 per bushel, - - - - -	1,500.00
By House Rent, - - - - -	150.00

By 5 tons Hay sold - - - - -	100.00
By Vegetables, Poultry, &c. furnished to house-keeping account, (which see), - - - - -	200.00
By Hams for do., - - - - -	50.00
By Beef, Lamb, &c. for do., - - - - -	75.00
By Beeves sold, - - - - -	80.00
By Lambs and Calves sold, - - - - -	100.00
By 300 bbls. Corn, furnished to inventory for next year, - - - - -	900.00
By 60 bushels of Wheat, sown at \$3, - - - - -	180.00
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Supposing the above to be a true account, it shows the interest paid upon land, servants, &c., in the whole expense of the year's operations, and a clear balance of \$1,077.50. Of course, however, we only design to show the proper method of making the entries. The leading principle of the account is, that the owner is to have credit for the money value of the farm and every thing upon it, at the beginning of the year, together with all money expended on account of the year's operations. The farm is made debtor for all these amounts. It must pay the interest of its own money value, or a proper rent, the interest of money invested in servants, stock, &c.; it must return every dollar's worth invested in the beginning, in the way of provision for servants, provender for stock, or for other necessary expenses during the year. It is entitled to credit for every thing sold or used by the owner, all increase in the value of stock, and every thing on hand at the close of the year.

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A KINDLY GREETING.—The following is a specimen of many others of the same character, we have recently received. The writer had already paid his subscription to July, 1856, and consequently the remittance carries him to July, 1858. Is it any wonder that such a man, so mindful of the justice due to others—to his own household, and to the dumb beasts under his protection, should be blessed with so many causes of gratitude to Him of whom it is said, that not a sparrow falleth to the ground without His notice, and of whom the assurance is given, "how much more carest He for those who love and serve Him." The letter is dated Washington, N. Carolina, Dec. 6:—

"Enclosed I send you three dollars—two dollars to be placed to my credit, and one dollar for a new subscriber to the American Farmer for the coming year; and I would here say, that it would afford me pleasure, if it were in my power to send you a hundred new subscribers, as I feel much indebted to you for the information I have received from your valuable paper, and prize it much higher than any other agricultural paper I take or know of—and I take four such papers.

"Allow me gentlemen to return you my thanks, and my good wife's also, for your kind wish you express in your last number of the Farmer. I know of nothing at present to prevent us as a family from enjoying Christmas, if we should be spared to see the day, having been blessed with a good return for our labor—all my crop housed—plenty of fat hogs, fat turkeys, &c. &c., and thanks to our Heavenly Father for a goodly share of health; houses and shelters for all my stock, and when the cold winter comes, they will all be comfortable.—And permit me gentlemen, to return the same compliment to you and your good families, and wish you may have hundreds of new subscribers to begin the new year with."

VALUE OF FARM-YARD DUNG.

"Farm-yard dung is the paramount means of fertility on the farm, it is the farmer's sheet-anchor, and every other manure must be regarded only as auxiliaries. It is indispensable in a dry season, and superior to all manures then."—*Stephens' Farmers' Guide*.

Truer words were never written, and yet how few farmers take the proper means to accumulate farm-yard manure, and preserve it from deterioration, as they should. Manure accumulated in the barn-yard, if properly cared for, would be worth twice as much as is the ordinary stuff which is carted out upon the fields in spring. Care should be taken to prevent the dung of the stable from becoming fire-fanged, which can be effected by mixing it with the dung of the cows. Care should be taken to so construct the cattle-yards, as to prevent the escape of the urine, and every possible means be taken to preserve the manure from deterioration, as also to add to its quantity.

The Little Pilgrim.—This interesting paper for children commences a new volume this month, and we most cordially command it to the support of our little friends.

LITERARY INSTITUTIONS.—We desire to direct particular attention to the advertisements which appeared in our Dec. No. of friends Jas. S. Hallowell and Caleb S. Hallowell,—the first at the head of a flourishing Female Academy, and the brother, at that of a Male High School, both in the ancient city of Alexandria. We feel warranted, from what we know of these gentlemen, and of their associations, in commanding their schools to the attention of parents and guardians who have children or wards which they are desirous of placing at a boarding school;—they are not likely to obtain more desirable situations, where the morals of the scholars will be guarded, a parental care experienced, and faithful instruction afforded.

THE PERUVIAN GUANO MONOPOLY.—We shall from time to time, keep this subject before the public; at present our pages are necessarily devoted to other subjects. We have been gratified to find that our friends in the old North State are alive to the subject; the annual increase in the consumption of guano in North Carolina is very great, and could it be had at a reasonable price, the demand would be almost unlimited. A letter just received from one of the largest landholders and most successful planters in the State, says:

"Your views as to the Guano question are concurred in and heartily approved of by every one: moreover our government would be warmly supported by the people of all classes and parties should it adopt measures to bring Peru to reason and justice on this subject."

☞ A correspondent, in St. Mary's County Md., in remitting his subscription, writes us as follows :

"On reading your article on the guano trade as conducted by Mr. Barreda, I felt that it was quite time that something should be done: \$57 per ton for an article we formerly did without! Why sir, "it is tolerable and not to be endured." Let us, sir, do without it: and use lime, plaster, farm manures, wood's dirt, and sow grass seed, cultivate less land and do it better, or if we must have guano let us go there and *own* it. As I do not expect our government to do much for the *Farmer*, it is a subject of *too little interest*—but if you want any help, let us know and we will come up.* I send you an ear of corn, the crop averaging over a pint of shelled corn, which I consider, some pumpkins, if not some hay, and there is plenty more left *just like this*, if not more so."

* Our correspondent reminds us of a remark that was made by the Peruvian monopolists, during our intercourse with them; when remonstrating against our selling at so small an advance, it was urged that complaints were made to them about it by the dealers, and that we interfered with the business of their own agents in other cities; and it was added, that if we got into difficulties by our zeal to serve the farmers, we would find that they would not be so ready to help us out of them. We are thankful we require no help—but let every farmer help himself through his representative at Washington.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT ON HUSSEY'S LOCOMOTIVE STEAM PLOUGHING ENGINE.

In submitting their report on this machine, the committee announced their intention to ascertain the result of the attempts which had been made in Europe to invent a locomotive steam ploughing engine, for the purpose of settling the important question of priority in an invention which is destined to make an era in the agricultural history of the world.

The most important, and also the most recent trial of this description, took place on the 22d of July, in the present year, at the Carlisle meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

The following account is taken from the Gardner's Chronicle and Agricultural Gazette, published in London, on the 28th of July, 1855:

"On Tuesday, the grand point of interest was the trial of the Steam Cultivator. A great number of spectators were assembled in the heavy-land field, but unfortunately, no engine made its appearance, except Boydell's, which amused as well as astonished the company, by running backward and forward over grass or ploughed surface, along or across the lands.

* * * * * It was then tried against a force of men pulling against it, and it was found that 30 men could stop it; so that, professing to be 12 horse power, it may be considered as efficient for nearly half that amount, fully one-half being used in its own conveyance over the ground, on which it was then working. A frame containing four ploughs, mounted upon carriage wheels, and fitted with levers for lowering and raising in and out of the ground, was attached to the engine in one of its trials. The engine proceeded slowly, dragging the ploughs behind. This arrangement of ploughs for the purpose, is the invention of Mr. Coleman, and answered pretty well, until one of the ploughs broke short off, and the work came to a stand still. A common iron double furrow plough was next tried, but not with very marked perfection of ploughing. The trial, in fact, being merely to see whether the engine could drag ploughs behind it, as well as propel itself over the land. Gibbon's digger was then drawn by the engine. * * * * * The draught of this imp'ement, we judged to be about that of six horses, but the engine of 14 horse power could proceed with it only at the pace of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour; so that 8 horse-power was absorbed in moving the engine itself. This fully shewed the usefulness of such a ponderous machine for tractive purposes.

* * * * * Great disappointment was felt at the non-appearance of Usher's Steam Plough. * * * * * It has been tested to be of 19 horse power; but the weight seems much greater than $5\frac{1}{2}$ tons, as six horses were hardly worked in drawing it into the Show Yard. Having got up steam, and attempting to propel itself to the field, the badness of the road occasioned a slight accident, and this, together with the unwillingness of the inventor to have the machine tried upon stiff lea ground in wet weather, has prevented the public from witnessing its performances.

As we were coming away from the field, impressed with the sentiment that the "steam cultivators were a failure," we received intelligence that another steam plough had started in a field half a mile off. Making the best of our way to the light land trial field, there sure enough stood a portable engine in one corner, with ropes and pulleys, and a ploughing machine, all in action. The

engine was that belonging to Mr. Lee, of Walsall, and the Plough and tackle are the invention of Messrs. Fisher, of Stamfordham, manufactured by R. Roger, of Stockton-on-Tees. * * * * *

We were informed by the exhibitors, that a four horse engine is sufficiently powerful to work two ploughs, and that with 4 cwt. of coal, it will plow four acres in a day, the expense of labor being only that of two men and a boy. If this be strictly the fact, we have a complete invention, able to plough light land, with a cost of say three shillings per acre. * * * * *

The Steam Cultivator entered for exhibition by Mr. Alexander Dussee, has not appeared, but as far as mere ploughing is concerned, we think the above contrivance contains all the elements of success."

The above is a literal copy, omitting only the descriptions of the engines and cultivators, which are gang ploughs. It proves conclusively, that no Locomotive Steam Ploughing Engine has yet succeeded in England, where, in the language of the London paper, the "steam cultivators were a failure."

The last named machine, (the only one which seems to have been partially successful,) is a stationary engine, and not a locomotive.* We have thus shown the correctness of the position taken in our report, that the honor of inventing the first successful "Locomotive Steam Ploughing Engine," belongs to Obed Hussey, of Baltimore, Maryland, in the U. S. of America.

T. TILGHMAN,
C. B. CALVERT,
M. T. GOLDSEGOROTH. } Committee.

*At the World's Fair in Paris, during the present year, to which all nations sent their most wonderful inventions, no steam plow was exhibited.

OHIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Last year, an association was formed under an act of the Legislature of Ohio for the purpose of permanently establishing an agricultural college. A course of lectures were delivered last winter to a large class, and the enterprise now promises the greatest success.

The college is located at Cleveland, and the second lecture session commenced on the first of December, and will continue for twelve weeks.

The plan is that which is generally pursued in medical colleges. Four lectures will be given daily during the term. The subjects in the course will be embraced under four heads: 1st. Geology, mineralogy, and chemistry. 2d. Botany, vegetable physiology, field-crops, orcharding, and gardening. 3d. Comparative anatomy and physiology, natural history and domestic animals, veterinary medicine, insects, &c. 4th. Rural architecture and landscape gardening, use and construction of implements, surveying, farm book-keeping, &c.

The lecturers, who are gentlemen of the first talents in the country, are Prof. J. P. Kirtland, Prof. J. Duscomb, Prof. Sam'l St.John, Prof. J. H. Fairchild and Prof. N. S. Townsend. Harvey Rice, president; Thomas Brown, secretary. Terms for the entire course \$40.

We are gratified to see this movement in Ohio, and hope soon to see similar institutions multiplied, and at no distant day to see one located in Kentucky. With this view, we understand that petitions are now in circulation to present to the Kentucky Legislature at its approaching session.—*Louisville Journal.*

JANUARY.



MARY I ROSS

Behold Winter, in its glory, and terror too! The fast-falling snow is filling the road and blinding the eyes, so that to wish the travellers a prosperous journey, would seem to them like mockery. The fur-clad sportsmen heed not the tempests; but cheerfully brave it all, for the pleasure of hunting. And now that the frost of winter shuts you up in your dwelling, let your fireside be a paradise, and let the long evenings be consumed in pleasant conversation, or in the pursuit of useful knowledge.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

JANUARY.

In compliance with a time-honored custom—in all singleness of heart and purpose—we tender to our patrons and friends the compliments of the season, on the recurrence of the new year; most devoutly wishing that its advent may find them, their families and dependents, in good health, and in spirits to enjoy the festivities of the occasion,—and as devoutly hoping, that, in the dispensations of Providence, they may be permitted to remain of earth, through a long series of years, blessed with prosperity and happiness, and that their courses of life may be such, as that its retrospect may be replete with associations as pleasant and consoling as they may be profitable, for the past, the present, and the future. As devoutly, too, do we hope, that the coming season may prove one not only of fruitfulness, but of generous rewards to the husbandman, conscious as we are, that there is no class of society whose toils and whose labors, deserve to be crowned with a fuller measure of compensation.

Having thus presented our compliments to our readers, we would be permitted to give our customary advice with regard to the economy and management of the affairs of the farm. In the discharge of this part of our duty, we must of course speak in general terms, as it cannot be presumed that we could enter into all the minutia and details of the various operations on a farm or plantation, such matters being more properly the business of their owners.

To carry out our views, we will here conjure every agriculturist to commence the year with the firm determination—the unchangeable resolution—to economise time; to so regulate the operations of his farm, that nothing which should be done one day be deferred till the next, unless prevented by the weather; to keep his tools and implements always in order, ready for use, in their proper place, and, when not in use, under cover. Let all come to the conclusion, and carry it out, that houses, barns, wagons and implements, stabling for working animals, sheds for cows and cattle, and stock generally, young and old, are indispensable on an estate, and that the more perfect a farm or plantation may be in these appointments, the greater will be the sources of comfort, and the more perfect the mediums of true economy. Every farmer or planter should keep a

book, in which should be recorded every operation on his estate, and should therein mark out the work to be done, at least a week ahead, and should further make it a point of duty, weather permitting, to always keep in advance of his work; for he may rest assured, that if he suffer his work to get much ahead of him, it will be a hard matter to catch up with it. It should be the duty of all to get their ground ready in season to plant or sow at the right time, and as much so to have their crops cultivated also at the right time. And we would impress these facts upon the attention of all. It is bad policy to overcrop yourself. The true policy is, in setting your crop, to apportion your number of acres to the force you have to cultivate them, as one acre well prepared, well manured, and well cultivated, will yield more than two in which these particulars may not have been observed.—While you should abstain from overworking your force, see to it with unflinching vigilance, that none in your employ kill time at your expense.

With the above general remarks, we shall now proceed to point out some of the many things that should be promptly attended to.

FIND WOOD.

Let us first call your attention to this matter. If

you have not already taken advantage of our former advice, to get a full supply of fire wood cut, hauled and piled up in your yards, in convenient places, lose no further time, but have this duty fulfilled without further delay. See to it that you have this work completed before the roads become so bad as to make it killing to horses and hands to get a load of wood home.

DRAINING WET LANDS.

We again call attention to the importance of draining any wet lands that you may have in cultivation, because we know that there are many localities where this work may be advantageously carried on during periods of the winter, and because we are deeply impressed with the great benefits to result from the operation.

WATER-FURROWS.

Examine the water-furrows in your grain fields every few weeks, and have all obstructions to the free passage of the water removed, as nothing is more injurious to young grain plants than being covered with water. Shallow plowing, and immersion in water, are among the chief causes which produce winter-killing.

WINTER PLOWING.

If you have a stiff clayey soil, that you intend to put a Spring crop on, you should avail yourself of every opportunity through the winter of ploughing it, in order that its texture may be improved by the frost. Recollect, however, that clayey soils should never be ploughed when either wet or very dry, but that the time for ploughing such soils is, when they are moderately moist.

FENCING MATERIALS.

As soon as you have secured your fire wood, then go to work and fell as much fencing stuff as will fully answer all your purposes next season.—When felled, have it hauled into your barn-yard, and employ your hands in the barn, when they cannot work out of doors, in working such stuff into posts and rails, in order that when the time comes for using them, that they may be ready when needed.

WORKING ANIMALS.

Working animals, of all kinds, whether they be horses, mules, or oxen, should be generously cared for. When engaged at work, they should receive three grain feeds per day, at regular hours, say, morning, noon, and night, besides their supplies of hay or fodder. Corn and cob meal, mixed with cut hay, straw, or fodder, the whole to be moistened, makes good working provender, and in this state the grain may be made to go at least one-fourth farther. If all grain fed to working animals were chopped, and mixed with cut hay, straw, or fodder, while a great saving would be effected, the animals would thrive better.

Working animals should be provided with good clean bedding, be curried and brushed, or whiped, morning and evening, watered thrice a day, and salted twice or thrice a week, one or two ounces at a time, or be given an equal quantity of the salt, ashes and lime mixture.

MILCH COWS.

If you expect these generous creatures to contribute liberally to the pail, you must be generous to them—you must feed them with such materials as will enable them to secrete milk. Treat them as we advised last month, and you will not be disappointed in your expectations.

YOUNG CATTLE.

Treat these as we advised last month, and you will not be far from doing the right thing.

WINTER MANAGEMENT OF SHEEP.

As we entered freely into the treatment of Sheep in our last month's remarks, and gave therein the result of the experience of several eminent sheep growers, we will only refer the reader to what we then said upon this subject, and will conjure him to profit by the advice therein given.

CORN COBS.

Save these, and grind them for your cattle. The practice of selling corn on the cob, is most wasteful—shell the corn, and keep the cobs for food for your cattle. They possess about one fifth as much nutritive matter as is in the grain.

BROOD-MARES IN-POAL.

Let these be cared for as we advised last month. Recollect, that while gentle labor is good for their health, heavy labor might prove ruinous.

IN-CALF COWS AND HEIFERS.

Let your treatment of these be such as we advised last month.

CORN SHELLERS, STRAW CUTTERS, CORN AND COB CRUSHERS.

True economy would indicate the propriety of every farmer and plaster having one of each of these machines among the appointments of his place.

BREEDING SOWS IN-PIG.

Care for these as we advised last month.

POULTRY, AND THEIR DUNG.

To promote the laying of your hens in winter, feed them twice a day with grain, alternating between corn, oats, and buckwheat—two or three times a week, give them messes of fresh meat or fresh fish, chop very fine. Keep under cover, always accessible to them, old mortar, chalk, broke fine, or lime that has been long slaked,—oyster shell lime best—or bones finely pulverized—also sand and ashes for the hens to dust themselves in. Water them three times a day.

Clear out your poultry house three times a week, put the dung in a barrel, covering the dung each time with a slight covering of earth, and sprinkling of plaster—keep the barrel in a dry place, and every 5 barrels of hen-dung thus preserved, will be sufficient manure to grow you fifty bushels of corn or more.

OILING, AND OIL FOR MACHINERY.

Upon these subjects we refer you to our remarks of last month.

GATES AND BARS.

Here let us advise you to substitute a good, light, well hung gate, for every pair of bars forming the means of ingress and egress to any field on your farm. Time saved in a single year will pay for the cost of the gate.

FAMILY SLEIGHS.

If you have not already had your family sleighs fitted up, and newly painted, have them done forthwith, as this is a duty which every agriculturist owes to his wife and daughters—a duty, the performance of which would send joy and gladness to every true man's bosom—for every husband and father, whose heart is in the right place, delights in

seeing the vehicle in which his wife and daughters may be taking pleasure, as good and stylish, at least, as that of his neighbors.

WAGONS, CARTS, TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS.

You should have sheds in which to keep all such things, when not in use. Protection from the weather make them last as long again as they will when exposed to the sun, the rain and snow.

COMPOST MATERIALS.

Collect and dispose of these as we advised last month.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

JANUARY.

There is not much to be done in any garden during this month, unless it be provided with hot-beds and frames—and all well appointed gardens should be provided with both—but when these necessary appointments exist therein, there is much to be done by way of raising early plants.

STIFF-CLAYEY BEDS.

All such beds in a garden should be manured, spaded up a full spade in depth; the ground should be left in the rough until spring. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, the soil dry and firm, and the weather sufficiently settled to set out hardy plants, the bed must be thoroughly raked and the plants set out. By pursuing such course, time will be economised, which is always precious to the culturist, particularly so at the opening of spring, when there is so much to be done, and so little time to do it in.

KIDNEY BEANS.

These may be planted in hot beds, for early use.

CUCUMBERS.

These also may be raised in hot-beds.

LETTUCE.

Lettuce plants in hot-beds should be aired in the middle of every fair day. Lettuce seed may be sown in hot-beds any time during this month.

MINT.

If you desire mint for mint sauce, set out roots in a frame.

SMALL SALLADING.

Of all kinds may be sown in frames during this month.

CAULIFLOWERS.

If you have no cauliflower plants growing, sow some seed in frames towards the middle of this month. If you have plants growing under frames, air them every fair day in the middle of the day.

CABBAGES.

Towards the last of the month, sow cabbage seed of several kinds to raise plants to set out to head, for the early crop.

A Christmas Present.—We have received from a lady subscriber, of Southampton Co. Va., a barrel of very fine Sweet Potatoes, as a Christmas Present, with kind congratulations of the season to us and ours. We most cordially reciprocate the same to our fair friend, and we hope we may be spared many years to exchange kindly greetings on return of the annual Christian festival.

FLORICULTURE—FOR JANUARY.

Prepared for the American Farmer, by Jno. Feast, Florist.

Flower Garden and Shrubbery.—All that can be done here, will be to keep every thing neat and clean; and protect any thing left in the ground from frost. Planting of shrubs and trees may be done in mild weather; and a partial pruning may be done, to forward the work on the opening of spring, as many things are often delayed, which might have been attended to at such a season as this, when it is open weather—such as the making of walks, planting box edging, and replenishing old worn out borders, by taking a quantity of the old soil out and putting fresh turf, loamy soil, with a small quantity of good rotten manure mixed in with it; more turf and fibrous the soil, the better, as roses and most all plants do better in this soil than any other, if not too stiff and clayey—and if any plants be in the way in the meantime, they might be removed readily, by taking up with a large ball of earth without injuring them in the removal, if carefully attended to by an experienced person.

In the greenhouse, admit air every mild day; be cautious in applying artificial heat; as the sap begins to rise and plants grow, more water will be requisite; those needing larger pots, can be changed at any convenient time to forward their growth. Camellias and Azalias will begin to bloom freely now; give the plants a little stimulant water to force them on; keep the house as regular as possible, and avoid too much dampness at all times; syringe occasionally of a fine day, and fumigate if required. Cinerarias, and others that require suitable pots to flower in, should be encouraged; pick off all the dead leaves, and tie out the branches as they grow, which makes them bushy plants, and more dwarf; keep off the green fly, as nothing injures them more, often destroying the bloom entirely.

Fuchsias, a favorite plant, should now be cut in and repotted, and kept in a temperate part of the house; be careful in giving too much water at first after heading down.

Geraniums, keep cool and dry; pinch off all the top shoots, and tie down the centre branches with a view to make bushy plants and finer specimens; as they begin to grow, give more water.

Mixed greenhouse plants, as *Acacias*, *Coreas*, *Justicias*, *Ericas*, *Epacris* and others, as they come in bloom, do not permit them to suffer for water; tie up all scattering plants, and give them plenty of room, by taking on one side such plants as have done flowering, and replacing with others yet to bloom, to keep up a succession of blooming plants through the whole season.

THE UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will hold its annual session in this city on the 9th of January, instead of February, the constitution having been changed. A new impetus has been given to this society by the triumphant success of its recent exhibition at Boston. The expenses there were nearly \$20,000; the premiums paid amounted to \$12,000; yet the receipts were sufficient to cover every thing and leave a balance in the treasury.—We learn that Hon. M. P. Wilder, the President of the Society, is making arrangements to have lectures and debates on important agricultural subjects during the session of the society here.—*Washington Star.*

The following amended report was intended to have accompanied the Report of the Committee on Discretionary Premiums of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, published last month, but by accident did not reach us in time:

"Messrs. Robbins & Bibb, of Baltimore, made a very handsome display of utensils and machinery, of great usefulness to the farmer. Among the various articles exhibited by them, as particularly worthy of mention, we must notice with high commendation, the McGregor Boiler and Furnace. These have already secured for themselves a wide spread reputation, of which these gentlemen are constantly reminded, in a *substantial way*. For this Furnace and Boiler the committee award them a diploma.

These gentlemen had also on the ground their celebrated Little Giant Corn and Cob Mill, and though the committee were constrained to award the premium to a rival machine, still they cannot avoid an allusion to this valuable money saving machine, as it has gained for itself so wide spread a renown.

The Nimble Giant, another very valuable addition to our stock of useful and economical machines, also held a conspicuous place in its department, and as an evidence of our conviction of its high merit and great usefulness, we award it a diploma of the Society.

Halladay's new Wind Machine was erected by William Ferris, of Wilmington, Delaware, and attracted considerable attention, and will no doubt be introduced by many of our farmers, for driving machinery, to drain their land, water their stock, fill their fish ponds, &c.; it would also answer for mechanics who do not require a constant power, as by this new invention, the wind will be found a great labor-saving agent. It is certainly worthy of attention."

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the Society held on 5th December, pursuant to call, the following gentlemen were elected the Executive Committee, in pursuance of the provisions of the new Constitution, viz: N. B. Worthington of Anne Arundel; Jas. N. Goldsborough, of Talbot; Frank Cooke, of Baltimore; G. M. Eldridge, of Cecil; R. M'Henry, of Harford; Jno. Merryman, of Baltimore; and S. P. Smith, of Alleghany County.

On motion, it was ordered, that the Executive Committee meet on the first Thursday in March.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held same evening, it was resolved, that the Treasurer be allowed 10 per cent. on the gross amount of money collected for the Society.

FARMER'S READING ROOM.—C. M. Saxton & Co., the well known Agricultural Book Publishers, it will be seen by their advertisement, have established a Farmer's Reading Room, at 140 Fulton St. New York, where the agricultural journals of this Country and Europe can be found, the free use of which they tender to their friends.

TRIAL OF CRUSHERS.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

We notice in the columns of your very valuable Journal, an interested and one-sided statement of the trial of corn and cob Mills, at the late Fair of the Maryland Agricultural Society, and thinking it hardly fair that the unjust impressions which are intended to be conveyed by the author of the advertisement, should go broad-cast to the entire farming community without an effort on the part of those who witnessed the trial to expose their manifest improprieties, we have thought it our duty to give what we deem, and what numbers of disinterested persons will bear us out in asserting to be an impartial and disinterested statement of the particulars of the trial alluded to, and we call upon the Examining Committee, Messrs. M. T. Goldsborough and C. B. Calvert, to confirm our statement.

The first circumstance that drew our attention to the trial was the appearance of the gentlemen of the Committee, just mentioned, at the location of the Excelsior or Leavitt's Mill, (which we must admit ground very well) having two horses attached. After witnessing its operation, the Committee went to Scott's Little Giant, or Robbins and Bibb's Mill, which required about 1½ minutes longer to produce the same amount of meal, with but one horse. The remark was then made by some person present that "the trial was hardly fair, inasmuch as the Excelsior, was grinding green corn with two horses, and the Little Giant was grinding hard, flinty corn with but one horse." The Committee having satisfied themselves of that fact, requested Mr. Leavitt to try the hard corn, which being presented to, the hard corn was put in, and at the second revolution the sweeps were shattered to atoms by the hardness of the draught required in this plan of Mill in grinding corn of the degree of hardness ground by the "Little Giant." This induced the Committee to postpone their further examination until next morning, with the request that each Mill should be tried with the same kind of corn. Feeling some curiosity in the matter, we made our appearance upon the ground at the appointed time, and witnessed the trial of all the Mills. The commencement was with Mr. Maynards "Champion Mill," which produced a half bushel measure about half full of meal in five minutes, requiring twenty revolutions, with but one horse. Then came the "Excelsior" which produced about the same quantity of meal in three and a quarter minutes, requiring ten revolutions, with two horses. Then came the "Little Giant Mill," which also produced the same quantity in four minutes, requiring fifteen revolutions with but one horse. Then came Mr. Colborn's Mill, which produced nearly the same quantity of meal in eighteen and a quarter minutes, requiring thirty-two revolutions also with but one horse. In this trial we were then, and are still, under the impression that the Little Giant Mill of Robbins and Bibb, should itself superior to any Mill on the ground, but the above is a true statement, and from it the disinterested in the community can judge for themselves.

EDMUND MAHER.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16, 1856.

A PRIZE RAM.—The Ram that was awarded the highest prize—450 francs—at the World's Exhibition at Paris, arrived at New York from Havre, a few days since, brought over for Mr. John D. Patterson, of Westfield, Chautauque Co., N. York.

ON BREEDING IN-AND-IN.

"No wonder, when high-breeding produces such an improvement in stock as to render the head small, fine, and beautiful, the extremities elegant, the form handsome, and the disposition so accommodating as that animals grow and fatten without feeling disturbed at what passes around—in short, become so prepossessed as to make their owners mistrust those of others—that they are employed to increase their own numbers. It was this feeling which actuated Bakewell to breed from his own stock, after he had brought the Leicester sheep and long horn cattle to perfection. For a time the late Mr. Mason, of Chilton, pursued the same course, and there are breeders in England at the present time who maintain that it is the best system, and will follow no other. Perhaps a stock brought to the highest state of perfection, and at the same time possessed of sound constitution, may be supported free of deterioration for many years by the peculiar skill of its owner; and I can conceive it possible for a high-bred stock, such as Bakewell's was during his whole lifetime, to be increased and maintained in its purity by the assistance of kinship. One valid reason must have induced Mr. Bakewell to employ only his own stock—that no other so good as his own existed to select from; and it would have seemed extraordinary in him, as a professed improver, to have employed any animal of acknowledged inferiority to his own; but I suspect the liberty he took in this respect, with impunity, could have only been taken with a high-bred stock of recent origin as his was, as many instances since occurred in which a fine stock have been raised in character, and have entailed irreparable loss to their owner, simply from being bred in-and-in.

The immediate effects of breeding in-and-in, or employing parents nearly allied by blood to propagate their kind, are remarkable. The bone becomes very small, of condensed texture, and fine quality. The skin is so thin as to receive the appellation of *paper*, and so open of texture as to be sensible to the least change of temperature; and hence animals bred in-and-in are very susceptible of catarrhal affections, and on which account they are liable to consumption and erys. The carcass is much reduced in size, and the disposition to fatten increases to such a degree that the animal may be said to be always in a condition to be slaughtered; and it was perhaps this tendency to fatten, which proved several years ago more than now, the great inducement with many breeders to tolerate the in-and-in system. The hair is short, smooth and thin-set, and the wool short, thin-set, and watery; and both hide and fleece lose a large portion of weight. The body assumes a change of form, the barrel being beautifully rounded, but seems stuffed, as it were, within the skin. The extremities are very fine, the head and hoofs small, the ears thin and broad, and the head of the sheep is almost bare of hair, of a blue color, very liable to be scalded by the heat of the sun, and attacked by the fly. The neck of both cattle and sheep are thin, and droop with a downward curve, between the head to the top of the shoulder. The eyes are often affected with wateriness. Lameness frequently ensues in one of the limbs. The constitution is evidently much weakened. The points just enumerated, show the unprofitable state into which a stock may be brought by being bred in-and-in. Mr. Mason's fine short-horn stock latterly showed

symptoms of the bad effects of this system; and Mr. Robertson's stock at Lady-Kirk, which contained at one time by far the finest short-horns in Scotland, suffered after his demise from the same cause, as was apparent in the animals presented at the sale which dispersed them. Only cattle and sheep have been subjected by farmers to this unfair system, for draught mares are usually covered by stallions obtained from a distance; and of cattle and sheep, the system has been practised on short-horn cattle and Leicester sheep. The racing stud has perhaps experienced its injurious effects also. Now that high bred stock exist in every district of the kingdom there is no excuse for pursuing the in-and-in system in breeding; and the attempt is the more inexcusable, from the remarkable fact brought to light only since the distribution of high-bred stock increased so much over the country, that the *injured progeny*, after being distributed for a time, their progeny may be brought together to propagate, and their offspring will exhibit no symptoms of in-and-in breeding. Such a result would seem to indicate that change of soil and situation renews the animal constitution."—"Stephens' Farmers' Guide."

WINE CULTURE IN OHIO.

From "The Culture of the Grape, and Wine Making," a work published in 1854, by Robert Buchanan, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, and for sale at the office of the Farmer, we gather the following facts:—

WINE CELLARS AND HOUSES.

Within the last two years the interest of the producer has been greatly advanced, by the construction of large wine cellars in Cincinnati, and the establishment of regular wine houses, conducted by dealers of ample capital. This will insure a fair market for the product of our vineyards, and presents a flattering prospect in future for the cultivator.

Mr. LONGWORTH has two wine cellars, and is interested in a third. His capital invested in this business is over \$100,000. Last year 75,000 bottles of Sparkling Catawba were prepared at his cellars—the year previous, 60,000—(this last is now ready for sale.) During the coming season, he expects to have ten thousand bottles prepared. The sparkling wines require from fifteen to twenty months to ripen, before being ready for market. He has also dry and sweet wines bottled for his cellars."

G. & P. BOGEN, bottled last year 26,000, and expect to put up 35,000 this year, of Sparkling Catawba."

"ZIMMERMAN & Co. intend to put up 60 to 80,000 bottles of still wine this year, (1854) and to give their entire attention to that class of wines."

CORNEAU & Sons prepare both Sparkling and Still wines. Their sales, last year, amounted to over 10,000 bottles, and their business is rapidly on the increase."

"Dr. L. REHFUSS has an excellent cellar, and is preparing still wines with great care, principally from his own vineyard."

"T. H. YEATMAN is arranging to make Sparkling wines. He has, heretofore, only made Still wines."

"Mr. MILLER, near this city, [Cincinnati], also makes Sparkling Catawba."

Upon the prospects in anticipation for the vine growers and wine merchants, Mr. Buchanan remarks on the above:—

"It is encouraging to the producer as well as the wine merchant to know, that the demand for their wines, particularly the Sparkling Catawba, has lately increased beyond all calculations; they can scarcely be prepared fast enough to meet the market. There is no reason to believe that the consumption will diminish, for the wines become popular wherever they are introduced. And yet, we are just beginning to learn how to make them. This looks well for the future."

NUMBER OF ACRES IN CULTIVATION.

Some two years ago, the Horticultural Society of Cincinnati appointed a committee, of which Dr. Mosher was chairman, to take a statistical account of the vineyards in this vicinity.

The following is the result:

Number of acres in vineyard culture [in 1852,] within a circle of twenty miles around Cincinnati, 1,200—under charge of 295 proprietors and tenants. Of this Mr. Longworth owns 122½ acres, cultivated by 27 tenants.

At the low estimate of \$200 per acre for the cost of planting, &c., this would amount to \$240,000, exclusive of the value of the land; and when in full bearing, produce at the most moderate estimate, for a series of years, (of 200 gallons to the acre,) 240,000 gallons of wine annually; but in good seasons, much more.

The number of acres now in bearing is a little over 740. The average distance in the rows is 3 by 6 feet, making 2,400 plants to the acre.

The average product to the acre in 1848, was about 300 gallons from near 280 acres then in bearing, and in 1849, (the worst year for rot that has yet been known,) about 100 gallons to the acre, from some 360 acres. New vineyards produce 200 to 250 gallons, but the old only 50 to 100; and the crops of a few were entirely destroyed by the rot."

In the year 1846, Mr. RENTZ, at his vineyard 4 miles from Cincinnati, made 1,300 gallons of wine.

LAWN GRASSES.

The following kinds and quantities of grass seeds are generally sown in England, on an acre of land, to produce a good sod on a lawn, in a short time:

<i>Botanic names of the Grasses.</i>	<i>Provincial or common Names.</i>	<i>Quantities of Seed.</i>
<i>Festuca duriuscula,</i>	<i>Hard Fescue,</i>	<i>4½ lbs.</i>
<i>Avena Flavescens,</i>	<i>Golden Oat Grass,</i>	<i>½ lbs.</i>
<i>Lolium Perenne,</i>	<i>Perennial Rye Grass,</i>	<i>30 lbs.</i>
<i>Poa nemoralis.</i>	<i>Wood Meadow Grass,</i>	<i>3 lbs.</i>
<i>Poa trivialis.</i>	<i>Rough-stalk'd Mead. grass,</i>	<i>2½ lbs.</i>
<i>Trifolium Repens,</i>	<i>White Clover,</i>	<i>11 lbs.</i>
<i>Cynosurus cristatus,</i>	<i>Crested dog's tail,</i>	<i>10 lbs.</i>

The whole of the seed to be intimately mixed together, except that of the white clover, which must be sown by itself the following Spring.—The seeds of the grasses proper, to be sown between the 20th of August and 10th of September, then harrowed in with a very light harrow, or raked in, the ground to be then rolled. The clover seed when sown the following Spring, as early as it can be done without injury to the soil, is to be rolled in.

BLIGHT IN PEAR TREES.

A correspondent writing from Eagle Falls, N. Carolina, says: "A new and destructive blight made its appearance this season on our young pear trees. About the time the blooms were falling off, the fruit with the leaves putting out from the same stem wilted, and in a few days turned very black, while the leaves apart from the fruit remained green and flourishing. Not a pear escaped. Some apple and quince trees were partially affected by it. No trace of an insect can be discovered."

A correspondent advises the use of slaked lime upon cabbages, repeated after every rain, and says it will improve their growth, and protect them against the destructive worm. He recommends as a protection of Hams against rats, to nail a wide plank planed on one side to the joists of the smoke house, with hooks at the lower edge of the plank. We have used long strings for the same purpose. Hams should be taken down however immediately after smoking, and put into fly-proof bags, to protect them against worse enemies than rats.

NEW AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS.—We have received the early numbers of two new weekly Agricultural Journals. *The Homestead*, published a Hartford, Connecticut, and the *Western Agriculturist and Fireside Companion*. These papers are both very good in their outward style and full of excellent matter. They will doubtless prove able auxiliaries in the work of improvement, and we wish them ample success. *The Rural New Yorker* in noticing these papers, states the fact, that of seven Agricultural Weeklies started in the State of New York since its own establishment, six had failed for want of adequate support, and that thousands were sunk by its own enterprise before the work was permanently established. There is an immense field for laborers of their sort, but the misfortune is that the work is not appreciated, therefore the laborers fail to get employment.

We have received from the office of the Genesee Farmer at Rochester, *The Rural Annual and Horticultural Directory*, containing a Calendar for 1856, and very ample directions for orchard and Fruit Garden, with list of Fruit, and also directions for making and planting Lawn and Flower Gardens.

LITERALITY WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE.—We have already noticed the fact that the newly formed State Agricultural Society of S. Carolina, intended applying to the legislature for an appropriation of \$3000 per annum. The application was accordingly made at its session in December, and when the bill was offered in the Senate, in accordance with the request of the Society, \$3000 was stricken out, by a vote of that body, and \$5000 substituted therefor, in which form it passed, and was sent to the lower house. Such an act is worthy of the character of that chivalrous State.

AGRICULTURAL FAIR IN CHARLES CO.—The eighth annual exhibition of the Charles County Agricultural Society, held at Port Tobacco, was attended by a larger crowd of persons than any previous exhibition of this Society.

The thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. Cottingham & Johnson, and Mr. Charles H. Drury, of Baltimore, for the display of highly valuable machinery and implements made by them; also to Mr. G. E. Chenoweth, of Baltimore, who exhibited, and took great pleasure in explaining, the operation of "Aitkin's Automaton Self-raking Reaper and Mower," made by Mr. J. S. Wright, of Chicago, Ill.; also to Mr. J. Montgomery, of Baltimore city, who had upon the ground some of his valuable Wheat Fans. This part of the Exhibition was highly interesting, and the farmers cannot fail to profit by the examination they were thus enabled to make of improved labor-saving machinery.

Premiums for agricultural implements were awarded to Messrs. Cottingham & Johnson, Charles H. Drury, and Jas. Montgomery, of this city.

A NEW ENEMY IN WHEAT.—A portion of my young wheat has been attacked by myriads of small bugs that are likely to destroy the whole crop.—They do not seem to bough in the stock, but confining themselves to the blade, they exhaust it of sustenance, and in a short time the plant perishes. The bugs are very small, first of pale green, then of a dark brown, and afterwards, I think, they become winged. They are smaller than the Wheat chinch bug, and not so flat. They appear very much like the bugs that infest the willow. They seem very tender, and the frosts of winter will probably destroy them; but should they renew their ravages in the spring, I shall look for an entire failure in my wheat crop. The object of this note is to elicit inquiry. Has this bug made its appearance in any other place? What kind of bug is it? Is there any remedy?

L. A. ANDERSON, Greenbrier Co., Va.

Patent Office Reports.—We have received a number of copies of the mechanical portion of the Patent Office Report for 1854, for distribution to those who may apply for them. We had already received and distributed during the week of the Exhibition, a number of copies of the Agricultural portion.

CASHMERE KIDS.—Dr. J. B. Davis, of S. Carolina, has recently sold fifteen three-quarter bred Cashmere Kids, seven months old, and one pure bred two years old Cashmere buck, to a gentleman in Tennessee, for \$4,000—the ewes at \$200 each, and the buck at \$1,000.

 A very able and interesting review of the "Year Book" has been received, which we exceedingly regret our inability to present this month—but will give it in our next. We are gratified at the assurance given that the writer will continue his contributions to our pages.

GUANO.—The Fredericksburg (Va.) Herald says that \$300,000 worth of guano is consumed in the district which furnishes wheat and corn to that market. The wheat sales it amounts to \$608,000, from which it appears that the cost of guano the present season has been nearly one-half of the wheat sales!

IMPROVED STOCK FOR SALE.—Farmers wish to supply themselves with improved breeds of Cattle, Sheep and Hogs, are referred to the advertisement of C. B. Calvert, and Ramsay M'Henry, Esq.s another page.

NOTICE—CORN AND COB MILLS.

FROM THE MANSFIELD, OHIO, HERALD.

A trial of Corn and Cob Mills in Mansfield, Ohio, was on the Public Square on Saturday last, which was witnessed by many of our citizens with no small degree of interest.

The Proprietors of the Corn and Cob Mill Little Giant having offered a Silver Cup to the Mill that would grind faster than the Little Giant, made their appearance at the appointed time with a 30 inch Mill and two horses, and for a contest!

The Proprietors of the Excelsior Corn and Cob Mill, not wishing to take a banter, not having a Mill larger than 20 inches. They, however, came into the contest with their Mill and one horse.

Each Mill grinding four bushels of ears of Corn. The Little Giant accomplished the work with sixty rounds of the horses, while the Excelsior Mill ground the same amount of ears of corn in seventy-two rounds of the horse, thus showing that the Excelsior Mill ground six times faster in proportion to the size of the Mill, with the power—which is conclusive evidence of the superiority of the Excelsior Mill.

The undersigned patentee of the Excelsior Mill now offers a Silver Cup to any Little Giant or any other Mill that will grind faster and finer than the Excelsior Mill, of the size—trial to be made at Mansfield, Ohio.

Jan'l-1t.

CHARLES LEAVITT.

From an "EYE WITNESS."

Zanesville, Ohio.

This Mill has had unusual success. Over one hundred have been manufactured in Mansfield, Ohio, in the month of November, and all sold—every one of which has given Perfect Satisfaction.

A trial was made in Mansfield between the "Young America" and the "Little Giant;" the consequence of that is that not one of the "Little Giants" has been sold in Franklin county since the trial. But the demand for the Young America, has been greater than the supply, thus proving its superiority over the "Little Giant."

That the "Young America" Mill is the best and cheapest Mill in use, no disinterested person will pretend to say. The increasing demand for them, and the universal satisfaction which they have given to all who have purchased, is abundant evidence of their great superiority.

Since the trial at Mansfield, Ohio, the Patentee has contracted for a very large number of them—one Founder has agreed to furnish 1000 of them within six months.

The Little Giant, Star Mill and others which are without the means of removing the grinding surface are good so long as they last, but cast iron Mills are very liable to wear, and unless the grinding plates can be renewed at a small cost, they soon become useless or very expensive. The Young America Mill is so arranged that the grinding plates which are exposed to wear, can be renewed at a expense of only \$3—making the Mill new again.

This is a great improvement, and may be regarded as the secret of the great success of the "Young America" Mill.

Jan'l-1t.

Extract from the Mansfield Herald.

"CORN CRUSHING CONTEST."—According to announcement, the two rival Corn Crushing Machines of Messrs. Scott & Hedges, and Mr. Leavitt, were brought out and situated in the street. The Machines were put in operation in presence of a large number of our citizens and Farmers, with the following result: The Little Giant of Scott & Hedges, ground two bushels of dry, shelled Corn in 18 minutes. The Excelsior, (or Young America) patented by Leavitt, ground the same amount and quality of Corn in 17 minutes.

In Justice to Mr. Leavitt, we would say, that the Mill of Scott & Hedges was of the largest kind, with a cylinder 30 inches in diameter, whilst the cylinder of his machine was only 28 inches in diameter.

For grinding Corn in the ear, the Excelsior or Young America Mill, we think is superior to the Little Giant. The Excelsior deposits the meal in a half Bushel, while the Little Giant scatters it in a box all around the machine. This is an advantage in favor of the Excelsior Mill.